

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER

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WEEKLY

GUNS IN DOUBT



CRAIG MOORE: suspended

Moore and Cranney out for tonight's clash

YOUNG Soccerroo midfielder Sean Cranney could miss the rest of the World Youth Championship after injuring a leg in Monday's 3-1 win over Russia.

Cranney went off in the 17th minute, and team doctor Brian Corrigan said at training the 19-year-old Brisbane based player appeared to have torn the outside cartilage in his right knee.

"It's a problem, but we're not saying immediately he needs an operation because that would definitely keep him out of the game," said Corrigan.

"Instead our aim is to keep him going ourselves, and give him a day or two to see if we can get him better.

"But I can't imagine him playing again within a week."

Meanwhile Craig Moore is also out of Thursday's clash after picking up his second yellow card against Russia.

Marconi youngster Aaron Holst is set to take Moore's place in the starting line-up against Cameroon for the first time in the tournament.

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SEAN CRANNEY: out injured

AUSTRALIA '93s BEST COVERAGE

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DR. HAVELANGE PRAISES AUSTRALIA

BY TED SIMMONS

AUSTRALIA won double praise from World President Dr Joao Havelange for its football progress and potential for staging an Olympic Games.

Dr Havelange sidestepped direct questions on Sydney's bid for the Year 2000 Olympics, stating he couldn't comment because his country Brazil was also involved in the applications.

"I'm here for the football only. There is a special committee here to assess the Olympic bid," he said. "But Australia has developed greatly in the past ten years and I have no doubt Sydney could host an Olympic Games without problem."

"There have been big changes here in sport and the economy and Australia has become an important country in the world community."

Dr Havelange was making his ninth visit to Sydney after his inaugural Australian appearance as a Brazilian delegation leader at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

The 77-year-old international sports leader, who took 32 hours to fly to Sydney, maintains a spartan regime of daily exercise to cope with his multiple roles.

World soccer plays a big role in the Olympic Games but Havelange played down his influence with the International Olympic Committee.

However, the power of FIFA overcame opposition from the IOC when the leaders decided football would be restricted to players Under 23 years of age from the Barcelona Games.

Havelange, who devised and introduced the Under 20 and Under 17 World Championships, has taken a particular interest in Australia over the past 20 years.

"This championship has been well organised," he said.

"Australia has always been well prepared for each FIFA tournament and currently has a fine team."

"But my favourite is Ghana because two years ago it won the World Under 17 title in Italy and eight of those players are here for this tournament."



Dr. Joao Havelange

Slow down warns Wade

Paul Wade has warned the Young Socceroos: "Slow down or risk blowing your World Youth Cup bid."

Wade fears Australia could run out of steam as the tournament enters its second week after gruelling matches against Colombia and Russia.

"It is vital that teams pace themselves to last the full fortnight of a gruelling championship like this," warned Wade.

"There have been times when Australian players have been wasting energy and that could be very costly later on."

"I've noticed players running with the ball instead of playing it simple and keeping possession," added the South Melbourne star.

Wade singled out skipper Kevin Muscat as an example to the other Young Socceroos.

"Kevin has shown his experience in keeping the ball moving with simple passes, saving his legs," said Wade, a team-mate of Muscat's at Middle Park.

"While some of the others appear exhausted after the game, he looks as if he's hardly raised a sweat."

"Kevin thinks about the game rather than playing on instinct or passion."

Wade believes the Young Socceroo skipper has been an inspirational figure, guiding the hosts to the tournament's quarter-final stage.

"Kevin is a steady influence and that will be crucial if Australia are to go all the way to the final," said Wade.

"He has looked very composed and controlled so far and he's definitely leading the team by example."

Muscat, 19, was in the Young Socceroo side which lost against hosts Portugal in the semi-final of the last world youth championship two years ago in front of more than 100,000 fans.

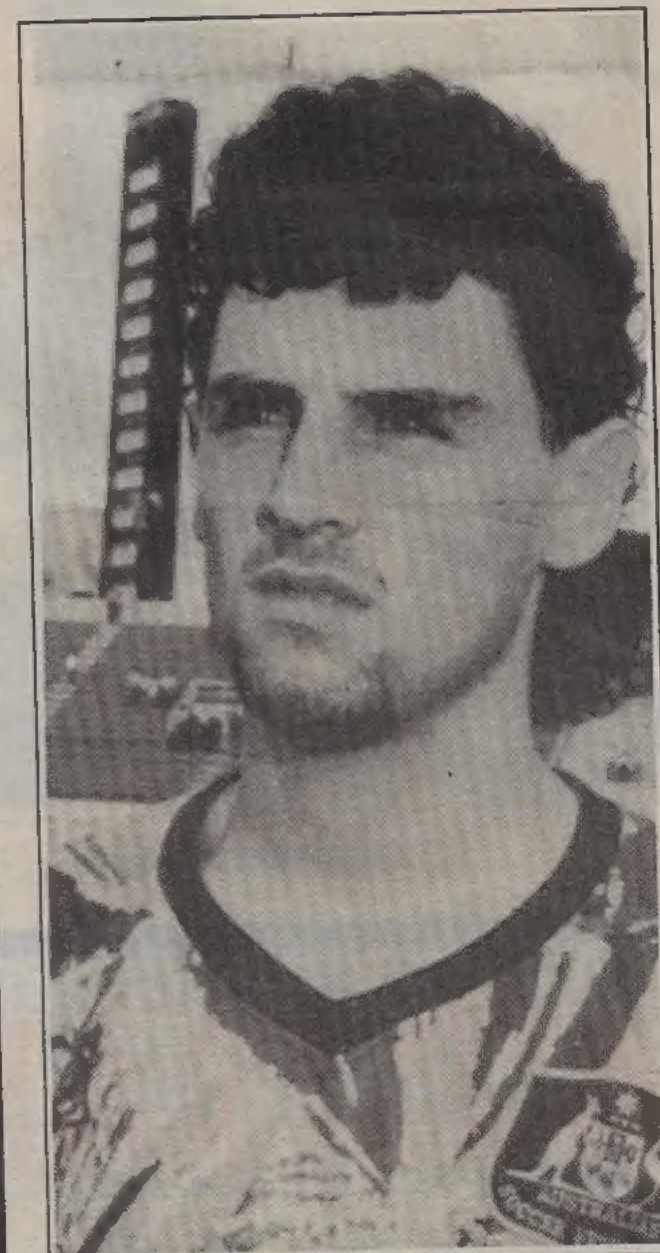
"Kevin has been there before and that experience will be vital," said Wade.

"There are going to be times when the Aussies are rattled and that's when Kevin will have to keep things under control."

"If the younger players get carried away by bad refereeing decisions or the crowd giving them some stick, then they could be in trouble."

Wade said Muscat has so far answered those critics who questioned his temperament following his sending off during a Middle East tour last month.

"Kevin has been very disciplined in the opening two games - perhaps the responsibility of being captain has sunk in," said Wade.



Kevin Muscat

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NO DRUGS IN OZ

WORLD officials have decided against drug testing competitors in the World Youth Championship in Australia.

FIFA media spokesman Guido Tognoni said a belief in the players and the high cost of testing had led to the decision.

"We don't believe youth players use drugs. It's not a useful way to strengthen the body," he said.

"In soccer you need all of your faculties and with today's players on the active list for almost 11 of the 12 months in a year, they would burn out if they used drugs."

"Anabolic steroids slow a player, amphetamines cause loss of control and speed pills diminish stamina so in the doping problem is not a problem."

Tognoni said drug tests had been introduced in the World Cup and the world's outstanding player Diego Maradona had been tested three times at the 1986 Mexico finals but each test was clear.

He added there was also the cost to consider with the need for a special testing room, a laboratory, special procedures and an error-free program.

"In sport today, if you can't prove the game to be clean people accuse you of using drugs," he said.

"I don't believe our football youth would be doped. It would be a crime."

A report released by FIFA states that the counter-doping efforts of the football authorities were succeeding.

Manfred Donike, a member of the medical committee of the International Olympic Committee, reported that 7,608 footballers all over the world had been tested under the doping program.

Only 18 had tested positive, the equivalent of 0.24 per cent.

There was one case of anabolic steroids and in the other 17 players, some substances with no therapeutic or performance-enhancing value had been registered.

Despite the result, FIFA will maintain its efforts to clamp down on drugs and for the first time, will make spot checks at World Cup qualifying matches.

Tognoni said that at the World Cup finals competition in America next year, two players will be selected for testing during the first round while for the rest of the tournament, three players will undergo tests.

The German Federation has taken the drug offensive one step further by ordering random tests during training as well as at matches.

Catch all the action in
Soccer Weekly
Out Mondays and Thursdays



GARY LINEKER: creating excitement

Gary fever grows

THE visit to Tasmania of Nagoya Grampus Eight is the first to these shores by a Japanese soccer team. It is certain to be a memorable one for two reasons. First, Grampus Eight is brimming with international players, and second, the visit is for a period of almost two weeks rather than for just one match.

Grampus Eight boasts one English international, one Brazilian international, and at least three Japanese internationals in its squad of 43 players. There are also a number of Japanese youth internationals and several members of the Japanese Olympic team.

The English international is Gary Lineker, one of the greatest players in the world. Lineker has played with Leicester City, Everton and Tottenham Hotspur in England, and with Barcelona in Spain. He has been capped 80 times by England, scoring 48 goals, which makes him second only to Bobby Charlton in the England goalscoring charts. Lineker is

a sportsman in the true sense of the word — he has never been cautioned in his career. He is a talented all-round sportsman and could easily have played first-class cricket if he had set his mind to it. Lineker, at 31 years of age, is still a world-class player and joined Grampus Eight to experience a new challenge.

The two Brazilians in the squad are defender Garca and striker Jorgeny, the latter having been a regular for the Brazilian national team since 1983. He missed the 1986 World Cup, where Lineker was the competition's leading scorer, because of injury.

Dirk 'Dido' Hanevaar is the club's dutch goalkeeper. He played with Den Haag in Holland and with Mazda and Yomiuri in Japan. He is also the goalkeeping coach of the Japanese national team.

Japan won last year's Asian Cup, which means Grampus Eight's Japanese internationals, Tetsuya Asano, Shigeo Sawairi and Yasuyuki Mariyama are very experienced players. Naoki

Mori, Hisataka Fukikawa and Kimihiko Kiyono are Japanese youth internationals.

Midfielder Taro Goto is a member of the Japanese Olympic team.

Nagoya Grampus eight is named after the legendary killer whales which saved the city of Nagoya from fire by spouting water on the flames. The golden grampus are still to be seen on the roof of Nagoya Castle, where they were placed by the first Tokugawa Showgun in 1609.

Grampus Eight is based on the Toyota club, which played in the Japan Soccer League, but it is a separate company.

It will play in this year's inaugural J League, the new professional league in Japan. Each team in this league must represent a locality, not a company. The team was formed after 100,000 citizens of Nagoya, which has a population of 2,130,000, signed a petition demanding a professional soccer team be established by the Toyota company, which pays over \$10 million a year towards the

team's running costs. Local companies also contribute.

The team's manager is Ryuzo Hiraki, who played for Japan at the 1956 and 1964 Olympic Games. This means he is no stranger to Melbourne, at least. He captained the 1964 team in Mexico, when Japan won the bronze medal.

The team's head coach is Jorge Yonashiro. He was born in Brazil but is of Japanese origin. He played as an amateur in Brazil before going to Japan, where he played for Yomiuri and the Japanese national team as a striker. He was manager of Yomiuri from 1986 until 1990.

Tasmanians will have watched Grampus Eight train very day of their stay prior to the match. That a foreign team would choose to conduct a pre-season training camp in Tasmania is a credit to Tasmanian soccer, and to Tasmania in general. It is quite possible that Grampus Eight will make this an annual event.

Brisbane Young Guns can only watch

BY ROB BLACK

BRISBANE United youngsters Brad Ditton and Brenley Jefford are watching the World Youth Championships with more interest than most and just a touch of envy.

Both Ditton and Jeffery made earlier squads of the Young Socceroos in the lead-up to the Cup with Ditton into the final stages and the series with The Republic of Korea.

However Australian coach Les Scheinflug had the unenviable task of cutting his squad and the two

Queenslanders went while team-mate Sean Cranney got the nod.

Ditton admitted he was devastated at missing out but vowed to put the matter right in the future.

"I must admit I was pretty shattered at the time Les named the final squad but I guess that's life," said Ditton.

"Obviously to make the national squad you have to be playing at the highest level so I would not rule out the possibility of going overseas."

However first priorities for both the young midfielders is to make a

place of their own in the Brisbane United top side with Jefford the heir apparent to veteran Frank Pimblett.

Jefford and Ditton have had opportunities during Brisbane's injury crisis, gaining more NSL exposure than many of those who did make the Australian team. But results at United did not help their cause.

For now the pair are watching the World Youth Championships from the stands but gaining a determination to make the grade next time the opportunity arises.

Ante Milicic leads Aussie goal charge

Ante Milicic has emerged as Australia's leading challenger for the World Youth Cup top scorer's title - but he's still not satisfied with his form.

The Sydney CSC striker, who has scored two goals in two matches, can go to the head of the list if he finds the net against Cameroon tonight.

Milicic scored with a stunning strike against Colombia last Friday and followed that up with a headed goal against Russia on Monday.

But despite helping the Young Socceroos to two wins and a guaranteed berth in the quarter-finals, Milicic admitted there is still room for improvement.

"I missed a few chances against Russia and I was not happy with my finishing," he said.

"I'll be working on that part of my game in training and hopefully things will turn round."

"The most important thing is to keep getting in front of goal," he added.

At this stage, Milicic's main rivals are Mexican Vicente Nieto and Henry Zambrano of Colombia, both on three goals, who head the table alongside Chris Faklaris of the U.S.

Milicic's strike partner Paul Agostino has scored one goal so far, a brilliant header against Russia.

Australia's other two goals in the tournament have been scored by captain Kevin Muscat and an own goal by Russian defender Muran Magomedov.

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SOCCER WHERE IT'S HOT

with **ROB BLACK**

Pele weaved more of his magic last month - this time at the unlikely venue of Queensland rugby league headquarter Lang Park.

Pele was in Brisbane for the Queensland launch of the World Youth Championships. All matches in Group B will be played at Lang Park, the only ground in Brisbane up to the FIFA standard.

Matches in the 1981 World Youth Cup as well as a couple of senior internationals have been held there in the past.

Pele shook hands, kissed babies and generally enhanced his reputation as a true ambassador for the world game.

His prediction for the final - Brazil (naturally) versus Australia - Pele is also a diplomat!

Queensland Cup holders Rochdale Rovers continued their good form in the XXXX League knocking over North Brisbane 2-0 to go straight to the top of the league.

Last Year's premiers North Star bounced back from their 8-1 drubbing by Rochdale in round one to defeat Brisbane Lions 2-1.

Former National League Cup holders Lions are without a point despite the return of several key players including Frank Mengotti, Andy Stowell and David Hunter.

Newly promoted Acacia Ridge are the surprise packets of the competition upsetting Lions 1-0 in their first game and then banging in six against Eastern Suburbs last week.

Taringa Rovers, coached by state boss Juan Cutillas, bounced back from a first up loss to beat Pine Rivers 3-2.

Frank Farina and Steve Corica are just two of the products of the Queensland country and the Queensland Soccer Federation believes more of their kind will be unearthed in the new look Queensland Cup.

More than 20 teams including nine regional sides will take part in the Queensland Cup due to kick-off March 28 when the Gold and Sunshine Coasts meet.

QSF secretary Jim Gilbert said the 12 Brisbane based XXXX League teams will make at least one trip to the country as part of the Cup's promotional programme.

The winners will grab a purse of \$7000 and the runners-up \$3000 in the final on August 8 at Queensland headquarters Perry Park.



Pele

Illawarra Scene

with **Phil Murphy**

VARDAR COMING

STATE League club Wollongong United wants to bring Macedonian First Division team Vardar to Australia to play six matches.

Club chairman Alex Kencevski said two games would be played in Sydney, two in Melbourne, one in Wollongong and the other in Newcastle.

He said he envisages the Wollongong game being against the Wolves and the Newcastle fixture against the Breakers.

Kencevski, back with United after quitting the club when it was relegated from the NSL, said he is confident of getting approval from the ASF and the NSW Federation.

"Vardar is the top club in Macedonia and would attract very good crowds here," Kencevski said.

Meanwhile, United is working on its new ground at Berkeley and it should be ready for use at the start of next season.

With United to play Canterbury at home on Sunday in the first round of the new season, Kencevski said spending has been cut.

"Players can't expect any more unrealistic payments," he said.

"That practice got this club into financial trouble in recent years.

"This season there will be \$250 for a win, \$150 for a draw and \$150 a loss. There will be no signing-on fees or training payments.

"I feel we have to consolidate and hopefully we can finish in the middle of the table.

"Most of last season's players are still with us and we will be looking to some



Alston (centre) in his soccer days

of the younger boys to make their mark.

TARRAWANNA CRUISING

TARRAWANNA players are cleaning up on a greyhound named Yankee Cruiser.

The dog is owned and trained by youth team coach Gary Fernie.

After winning four races in a row at Penrith, the dog won at Dapto and has a huge following at the nearby Balgownie TAB.

The publican at the Balgownie Hotel thought he had a riot on his hands recently.

He was working in the cellar when he heard yelling from the bar and after racing up to investigate he discovered it was only Yankee Cruiser backers cheering after the dog's first win at Penrith at 8-1.

BRANDON PARK CONTROVERSY

WOLLONGONG Olympic has added to the controversy raging among ISA clubs over Brandon Park.

Some clubs are supporting a proposal to play the Sunday match of the round fixtures at Brandon Park - home of Wollongong City.

However, others are against the plan because they claim, it will cost them revenue.

In the middle of the argument, Olympic has arranged a lease on the ground so it can host the Premier League grand final on October 3.

Seen as a master stroke by those who want to see Brandon Park used by soccer all year around, the plan must have a great chance of success.

The Illawarra final was played at memorial Park for many years but was allocated to Bulli's fine complex at Ball's Paddock last season.

Many believe Bulli had a very good chance of hosting the big game indefinitely.

However, the Brandon Park proposal will get plenty of support.

Olympic director Paul Manahidis said his club has already arranged a provisional lease with the Wollongong Sportsground Trust.

He said he had handed the club's application to stage the grand final to ISA president George Naylor.

"We are confident we will be given the chance to run the grand final and we will prove just how important it is that Brandon Park becomes our soccer headquarters," Manahidis said.

"My club is in favour of the ground being used for Sunday ISA games this season.

"There are certainly more advantages than disadvantages.

"To allow that ground to remain unused all winter would be criminal.

"I know other soccer regions would love to have a complex like that to use as a soccer's showpiece 12

months of the year.

"The ground can hold more than 3000 in the grandstand and is ideal for supporters who wouldn't go near a district ground on a Sunday afternoon if it was raining."

CITY BATTLERS

BATTLING First Division club Shoalhaven City caused the upset of the opening round of the \$2000 Corrimall League Club knockout.

They held Premier League club Balgownie to a scoreless draw then won a penalty shootout 4-2.

Last season's Premier League champions Coniston Macedonia almost suffered the same fate.

First Division outfit Picton played very well to grab a 2-2 draw after 90 minutes but Coniston won on penalties.

GET IN

FORMER Socceroo striker Adrian Alston is coaching First Division club Port Kembla this season.

"Noddy" has moved in at Wetherall Park in an attempt to get the club back into the Premier League.

He takes over from former Wollongong City goalkeeper Natch Vardareff, who was in charge last season.

Meanwhile, Port Kembla is involved in a controversy over former Warilla Wanderers winger Lee Smith.

Smith is in hot water with the ISA after signing with Port Kembla and Bellambi this season.

Obviously the association would prefer he conform with the other players and just turn out with one club.

TASMANIAN TEAM NAMED

BY **WALTER PLESS**

THE Tasmanian squad was selected after an exhausting programme of intrastate matches, followed by a Tasmania "A" versus Tasmania "B" showdown of two matches, one of Devonport, the other at South Hobart.

There were five meetings between the South and the North. The first was at Taroona and the North scored a resounding 5-1 win. Anthony Guilbert, arguable the fastest player in the State, scored twice, the North's other goals coming from David Meldrum, Nick Reed and Roger Mies. Brendan Lakoseljac scored for the South.

The second match, also at Taroona, was won by the North 6-5 after a penalty shoot-out. The score had been 1-1 after 90 minutes. The South won the third meeting between the sides 8-7 after penalties, at Prospect, in Launceston.

The series then moved to Devonport City's Valley Road ground for the final two matches. The North won both of these, the first 2-1, the second 6-5 after yet another penalty shoot-out. After these five games, Tasmanian coach, Alex MacDonald, selected a squad of 28 players for the "A" versus "B" matches, after which a squad of 18 was chosen.

The Tasmanian team contains some very experienced and accomplished players. John 'Snowy' Compagne began his career with Ulverstone before transferring to Devonport City, the minor premiers last season. Compagne has won the Soccer Writers' Award and the Vic Tuting Silver Medal. He has trialled with Scottish Premier League club, Hibernian. He is one of the best defenders in the State and can also score goals.

White Eagle midfielder, David Stoddart, scooped the individual honours last year. He was the Soccer Writers' Award winner, the Vic Tuting Silver Medal winner, and the leading goalscorer in the West Point State League competition.

Scott Young, another midfielder with White Eagle, was the Soccer Writers' choice for 1990. Richard Leszczynski and Mark Leszczynski are two of the mainstays of White Eagle, the club that has picked up five of the past seven State League titles. Richard is lethal in attack, while Mark is an uncompromising sweeper and defender.

Devonport City's two Scots, midfielder Charlie McCaffrey and striker Tommy McGinn, are two of the best imports to have played in Tasmania. They married Tasmanian girls and moved to the State after extensive playing experience in Kilmarnock, Scotland.

Goalkeepers Neil Connell, Brett Williams and Bob Smith are all very experienced custodians. Connell has had overseas experience at Aberdeen, the city of his birth, Middlesbrough, and South Africa. Williams is the youngest of the trio but has already spent some time in England trialling with Notts County.

Tasmanian coach, Alex MacDonald, is a Scot who played with Caledonians after migrating to Tasmania. He then moved to the North-West Coast, where he has played with and coached Ulverstone and Devonport City. He took Devonport to last year's minor premiership, which they won by 16 points from Les Bee, the Tasmanian Soccer Federation's staff coach and MacDonald's assistant, was coach of Southern Tasmania in the intrastate series. He is a former State Director of Coaching in both the ACT and Tasmania.

The match against Grampus Eight will be the first of many for Tasmania in the next two years. It is hoped that a number of interstate and New Zealand teams will play here this year, while next year will see the start of the interstate state-of-origin series.



FARINA: country grown

Yankos to miss crucial matches

BY PHIL MURPHY

LOSING sweeper Charlie Yankos for three games has been a blow to Wollongong City but they could have lost him through injury anyway.

Yankos, who has been an inspiration to the Wolves this season, is suspended after being booked during the 1-0 win against Sydney Olympic.

The former Socceroo captain said after the game he was bitterly disappointed to be out until the last game of the season against South Melbourne.

However, he revealed he had been battling a knee injury for three weeks leading up to the Olympic match.

He said he had been putting up with some discomfort to get on the field.

"The only consolation from the suspension is that I will have time to get the knee right for South Melbourne and hopefully the playoffs," Yankos said.

"We have to be really confident of finishing in the top six and I believe we can finish third or fourth."

"While I won't be playing in three of the last four games, young Steve foreshaw won't let the side down."

"The lad is only 21 and no-one knew him at the start of the season but he has come along nicely."

"After playing in the local league last season with Bulli, Steve hasn't been overawed by the likes of the Seals, the Morris and the other big names of the NSL."

Wolves coach David Ratcliffe said Yankos' suspension came right out of the blue.

"Charlie served a game earlier in the season and I wasn't really worried about him being suspended again this season," Ratcliffe said.

"Then he picked up six points for a foul in Brisbane and another the following week."

"He will leave a big gap in our defence but the sweeper position will be filled by Mick O'Shea and Steve Forshaw will be stopper."

"Charlie was upset when he heard he was out and I suspect he was more concerned about losing his tag as leading goalscorer."

"The night we played Olympic, Richard Lloyd scored our goal and is level with Charlie on six."

"Charlie would have given our strikers plenty of stick if he had finished the league program as top scorer."



YANKOS: a big blow

THIS column is devoted, not surprisingly, to the Youth World Championships.

After a full round of eight preliminary group matches, here are a few sundry thoughts:

■ Some might have thought the crowd of just under 32,000 at the opening ceremony at the Sydney Football Stadium disappointing — as I did initially — but remember this was youth football.

How many people would have turned out for a, say, Australia v Scotland rugby youth international. I don't mention rugby league as hardly anyone plays the game abroad, and it is quite irrelevant internationally.

SFS ANNOUNCER

■ The Sydney Football Stadium certainly knows how to pick them!

Their announcers, I mean.

The gent behind the mike at the Australia-Colombia game mispronounced the easiest of names. Anything other than Moore was beyond him.

In multicultural Australia? Give me a break.

SMH LAG

■ While I was absolutely thrilled to see the "Sydney Morning Herald" devote the entire upper third of last Saturday's edition to Australia's win over Colombia, parts of the article were patronising — and incorrect.

The staff writers who shared the byline claimed that soccer lagged behind the other football codes in Sydney.

Say what? It may be the poor relation in the minds of the establishment SMH, but actually soccer is Number 2 in Sydney.

FROM THE HIP

with Lou Gautier



Adriano of Brazil

Rugby League is undisputed king of the football codes, then comes the world game, with rugby union third and Australian rules fourth.

But on the club scene, Aussie rules, for all the woes of the Sydney Swans, outdraws rugby union.

TV RATINGS

■ SBS are over the moon with the ratings of their Australia '93 telecasts.

After the first three days, ratings were amongst the highest for any SBS telecast, including the 1990 World Cup final.

Perth produced the best figures, but the Sydney

South Korea match last Sunday also drew very well.

TACKY

■ One black mark against the Australia '93 Organising Committee is the absence of bands at match venues.

Playing national anthems on tinny public addresses is just not good enough.

AAP TOPS

AAP, Australia's own news service agency, gets a big pat on the back for its extensive and accurate coverage of Australia '93.

Every match is covered in detail, previews, players' profiles, every facet of the

Youth World Championship, in fact, is.

Well done fellas! ■ And other pat on the back for the FIFA Coca-Cola Cup's own press and media office, supervised by the AAP's Steve Dettre.

Within minutes, all match stats are available.

The efficiency of Steve and his hard-working staff have drawn rave reviews from the world's media gathered in Australia.

They all agree that the service provided by Australia is much more comprehensive — and faster — than that available at any other Youth World Cup.

LAMPTEY?

■ Early impressions can be deceiving, but at this early stage these are the starlets who have caught my eye, and the favourites for Australia '93s Player of the Tournament:

- ★Chris Faklaris (USA)
- ★Henri Zambrano (Colombia)
- ★Fernando Correa (Uruguay)
- ★Adriano (Brazil)
- ★Marcelinho (Brazil)
- ★Nii Lamptey (Ghana)
- ★Fahad al Ghesheyan (Saudi Arabia)
- ★Issac Asare (Ghana)
- ★Carsten Jancker (Germany)
- ★Ante Milicic (Australia)

And the winner is... Nii Lamptey! The Anderlecht star is set to dominate the Under 20 titles as he did the Under 17 World Cup in Italy 20 months ago.

FACTS FACTS FACTS JASON FALZON FACTS FACTS FACTS

Date of Birth: 2nd Feb 1971.
Previous clubs: Parramatta Eagles Juniors.
CCSL Appearances: 18
CCSL Goals: 0

TWENTY-ONE year old Jason Falzon, ball player and tough tackling midfielder is rated by Eagles coach Rale Rasic as a big hope for the future and judging by his performance so far this season those hopes are being fulfilled.

Q: How is the season going for you so far?

A: This is my third year as a first grade player at Parramatta and with Rale Rasic here this year it's like a new lease of life, the team is enjoying playing which is really the bottom line.

Q: What is your view of the former Parramatta coach Raul Blanco?

A: As a junior under Raul there was definitely more pressure on you to perform. Under Raul he always wanted more established players.

Q: What's your view of the Eagles new maestro Rale Rasic?

A: He's giving youth the opportunity to develop. Just look at Michael Reda and the way he is going this season. In the team we have the perfect blend, youth and experience. The likes of Robert Wheatley, Gerry Gomez, Marshall Soper and David Lowe are helping players like Reda, Adam Ciantar, Paul Souris and myself. Then you have someone like Rale Rasic organising — it becomes a unique occasion.

Q: Don't all coaches give youth a chance in the CCSL?

A: Not really, Rale is different. I believe that if



you are good enough and 15, Rale will select you for the first team.

Q: What's your ideal position?

A: Basically in midfield, either on the left or the right. I have always trained very hard to play with either foot and I think it's paid off.

Q: 50-50 balls you tend to win, is that a facet of your game you have had to work on?

A: When Raul Blanco was at Parramatta he

always thought I was a ball player only. He often said he would never pick players that could not tackle. So I worked on how to tackle hard in order not to be seen as just a ball player.

Q: Parramatta have been very impressive so far this season against a lot of scepticism. Why do you think results have gone so well?

A: The pre-season tournament in Sydney helped a lot as we had been training prior to that for about five weeks so we all felt very fit and eager from day one. That also helps in team camaraderie as the players have had more time to get to know each other and get used to how we all play.

Q: Who are your soccer idols?

A: Maradona has always been my idol every since I was a youngster. Another player I really admire is Torino's Enzo Schifo. In Australia, Oscar Crino was a great ball player and others I value are Sydney Olympic's Brank Milosevic and Aytek Genc who is thankfully here at Parramatta.

Q: Do you think that to become a really top class player in Australia you have to go full time?

A: Absolutely. In today's game to be at your best you cannot work 9-5 in the week and train in the evening and play games at the weekend. The amount of travelling involved and the standard you need to reach every week require you to be a professional fulltime player.

Q: What are your soccer ambitions?

A: Initially to establish myself in the first team squad and then to become recognised in Australia before going overseas. But that's nothing original as most players have those aims!

United prepare

BY ROB BLACK

BRISBANE United coach Miron Bleiberg has already begun preparations for the 93/94 NSL season even before this one is over.

United are bottom of the league and must do better to avoid the chop next year, so new recruits and a better pre-season are Bleiberg's goals before October.

Preston look certain to take the drop this season as the bottom Melbourne side, but next year the areas outside Sydney and Melbourne come in for the relegation rule.

Brisbane had a run of injuries and suspensions in 92/93 but excuses will count for nothing come May 1994.

Bleiberg has said all along the fledgling club's third season would be the most important and let it be known he wanted to buy players before the new campaign.

Midfielders, Tahitian international Reynald Temmari and former Dutch First Division player Fred Kruis are on Bleiberg's hit list with another striker a high priority.

Brisbane's best has again been midfield general Frank Pimblett when fit, however at 35 Pimmo will need support in the middle for the crunch season.

The defence too must be looked at, with United's by far the worst in the competition, 57 goals conceded in the 23 games so far this season.

Bleiberg said the need for a break for his players was crucial and most of United's squad won't be playing in Queensland's XXXX League this winter.

Meanwhile the three rounds remaining after the month break for the World Youth Cup are vital for Brisbane to salvage some pride and show supporters and potential sponsors they are not the League's easybeats.

A tough task when you consider their last three matches, leaders South Melbourne and top six contenders Newcastle away and a desperate Preston at home.

the BRITISH

FROM PLAYING STARS TO COACHING LEGENDS

PLAYER-managers, the men who carry the worries of the boardroom onto the pitch, are the new and fashionable breed of stars in English football.

Kenny Dalglish started the modern trend when he moved from the dressing room in 1985, inspiring Liverpool to a coveted league-and-cup double in his first season in charge.

Several well-known players have followed, including former England forward Trevor Francis, goalkeeper Peter Shilton, defender Terry Butcher and midfielders Glenn Hoddle and Peter Reid.

In addition, Graeme Souness had a distinguished playing career with Liverpool before returning to manage the club after a spell with Glasgow Rangers.

Shilton, who won a record 125 caps for England before his international retirement, is now player-manager at Second Division Plymouth Argyle where, after an uneasy start, he has settled happily into his new role.

Butcher, whose physical presence made him an intimidating opponent for many forwards, is playing-manager at First Division Sunderland, while Hoddle holds the same position with First Division Swindon Town.

Reid, who works in the Premier League with Manchester City said: "It is not an easy job and I find I select myself often to sit on the bench as a substitute."

"I still love playing, but you need to watch the game closely sometimes. And we have some good youngsters who make it difficult for me to get into the side."

Shilton, Butcher and Hoddle are not faced with this problem, as they are all first-choice selections for their teams.

But the three admit the difficulty of combining leadership on and off the pitch with a need to keep fit and stay on form.

"I started off by being very strict and concentrating on discipline," said Shilton, who played under every England manager from Sir Alf Ramsey to Bobby Robson over nearly 20 years at the top.

"But I missed the camaraderie of the dressing room and the team spirit was not quite right. I love the job. I want to do it right," he added.



Kenny Dalglish

"Now since I have relaxed a lot more and enjoyed the players' company more it has helped... we train hard, we work hard, then we can chat about anything you like. It is important."

Disciplinary problems also affected Francis's first foray into management when he was player-manager at Queen's Park Rangers, an appointment which lasted 11 months.

"I tried to introduce some of the discipline and habits I learned in Italy, but it did not work out in England. The players were not the same and had not been brought up the same way," Francis said.

He is now in charge of Sheffield Wednesday, the team-of-the-moment who are challenging for honours on three fronts in the Premier League, the FA Cup and the League Cup.

Francis, 38, is still keen to carry on playing, though he rarely selects himself for the team.

"I love it as a manager, but I still want to play. I am training every day now and ready to play if needed."

Former Liverpool and Scotland forward Dalglish has hung up his playing boots, but only after a distinguished stint. His example has inspired many of the others.

"You have to do a lot of thinking, planning and working and the days are long. But then you think about the success of Kenny Dalglish and you know it is worth it," Hoddle said.

"I enjoy it because it gives me a chance to mould a team into playing my way," he said. "I have introduced a system I learned from my international experience. It suits (the Swindon team), they enjoy it and so do I."

Hoddle, a former Tottenham and Monaco midfielder, says he is lucky because he has a chance to pass on to younger players what he learned from managers at home and abroad.

"There is a tremendous sense of satisfaction in the job, but I find I have to concentrate on playing more than managing once I am out on the pitch," he said.

"That is where it still counts most whatever we say or decide beforehand or during the week."



SOUNESS: still a tracksuit manager

"UGLY SCENES" AT MAINE ROAD

Clubs may have to consider fencing in the fans again, Manchester City chairman Peter Swales said after a 300-strong pitch invasion at his Maine Road ground.

Swales, sickened by the ugly scenes which wrecked the FA Cup quarter-final against Tottenham, thinks the cages may have to return even though they were cited as one of the main reasons for the death-toll in the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

After mounted police, dog handlers and stewards eventually quelled the threat of a major riot and 20 were arrested, officials from both clubs plus referee Ray Lewis, who took the teams off with just three minutes left, took stock of a frightening situation.

There was a 10-minute delay before the game could be completed, Tottenham winning 4-2.

Lewis, in charge of the Hillsborough semi-final between Nottingham Forest and Liverpool in which 96 died, said: "It was certainly a frightening situation and I can only report what happened to the FA."

"Obviously I will never forget Hillsborough and this was not on the same scale of course. But it was still very alarming."

Swales, chairman of the FA's international committee, said: "I was looking forward to a great day but it has turned out to be probably the worst day I've had in football."

"It was obnoxious really because we have worked hard here to create a safe ground. We opened a brand new all-seater stand to comply with the Lord Justice Taylor Report but that is where the trouble came from."



Manchester City's veteran Peter Reid

"I don't know what those people thought they were doing because it happened just after Terry Phelan had scored the second goal for us. I think it was just a case of putting two fingers up to authority."

"It is particularly upsetting for somebody like me, a senior FA official."

"We've got to do something because it is clear now that this sort of thing is just not going to go away. We may have to put the fences back up and it would break my heart to do it."

Swales attributed the trouble purely to "so-called City supporters".

There was a brief

outbreak of fighting when a few Tottenham fans among the 7,500 travelling supporters broke through the cordon of police and stewards guarding them at one end of the ground but Swales said: "Spurs won both on the pitch and in the crowd."

A Greater Manchester police spokeswoman said "sporadic outbreaks of disorder" outside the ground after the match were being controlled by police.

Tottenham chief executive Terry Venables said: "We thought we had got to a stage where all this was in the past. The last few years have been virtually trouble-free. It is very, very disappointing."

Manchester City manager Peter Reid said: "When things like this happen it makes you wonder whether carrying on with the job is worthwhile."

Rick Parry, chief executive of the Premier League, is certain there will be a major FA inquiry and said: "It is highly disappointing not only for Manchester City but football in general."

The disturbances overshadowed a brilliant Tottenham performance spearheaded by a hat-trick from midfielder Nayim.

They now face Cup favourites Arsenal in the semi-finals on April 4.

SPURS INTO SEMIS

TOTTENHAM is 5-2 second favourite for the English FA Cup after its 4-2 win at Manchester City last Sunday.

In the semi-finals on April 4 Tottenham play favourite and near neighbour Arsenal in a repeat of a 1991 Wembley clash at the same stage when Tottenham won 3-1 on its way to a record eighth victory in the competition.

Tottenham boss Doug Livermore said: "It's going to be difficult to say the least but no matter who you play in a semifinal it's going to be tough. We certainly can't refer back to 1991. That's been and gone."

"I suppose the first question is will it be at Wembley again. I think that would be sensible."

Latest odds: 2-1 Arsenal, 5-2 Tottenham, 7-2 Sheffield Wednesday, 7-1 Sheffield United, 9-1 Blackburn, 14-1 Derby.

Warhurst strikes again

RELUCTANT striker Paul Warhurst kept Premier League Sheffield Wednesday's FA Cup hopes alive with a late goal to earn it a 3-3 draw in its quarter-final away clash at derby on Monday.

It was the central defender's second goal of the tie and his 11th in the last 10 matches.

Playing up front because of long-term injuries to key strikers, Warhurst gave Wednesday a 2-1 halftime lead when he ran on to Chris Waddle's exquisite through ball in the 37th minute and coolly slid the ball home.

John Sheridan struck first blood for Wednesday when he converted a 13th minute penalty. Shane Nicholson equalised 16 minutes later with a spectacular 35m shot which struck the bar and went in off the back off goalkeeper Chris Woods' leg.

First Division Derby ran Wednesday ragged in the second half and seemed to have sewn up a semi-final spot when it struck twice inside four minutes.

Marco Gabbiadini cut a swathe through the opposing defence to lash a shot into the roof of the net in the 71st minute and Paul Kitson followed up with his 21st goal of the season when he headed in Nicholson's left wing cross.

But the remarkable Warhurst had the last word, sweeping in substitute Nigel Jemson's right wing cross with only five minutes left.

The winners of the March 17 replay at Hillsborough will meet either Sheffield United or Blackburn.



SHERIDAN: struck first blood

KEANE NEW DEAL

IRISH International Roy Keane gave struggling Nottingham Forest a boost by signing a new three-and-a-half-year contract.

"The club has been very generous in its offer and I will never forget that they first gave me a chance in the game. Hopefully, by signing a new contract I have shown my loyalty to them," Keane said.

There had been speculation that Forest would have to sell the 21-year-old midfielder, estimated to be worth as much as \$10.32 million.

Keane joined Forest, second from bottom of the Premier League, less than three years ago for \$51,600 from a minor Irish club.

FRANCIS CALLS FOR CHANGES

Wednesday boss attacks League

SHEFFIELD Wednesday manager Trevor Francis called for the English Premier League to be reduced in size to give hard-up fans better value for money.

Francis believes they are being short-changed when star players are sidelined through injury, and that fewer matches would reduce casualty lists.

"Something has to be done because it is getting quite ridiculous. When you are asking the public to pay the money that is charged now and they are seeing reserve teams, then something is not quite right," he said.

"The problem is most sides are playing three games a week throughout the season. The game is faster and more physical and therefore players are going to pick up more injuries."

Francis wants a reduction from 22 clubs to 18 — over a period of time if necessary.



Wednesday star John Harks

LEADING GOALSCORERS

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION

- 23 Ian Wright (Arsenal)
- 22 Alan Shearer (Blackburn), Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham)
- 19 Mick Quinn (Coventry)
- 18 Craig Hignett (Middlesbrough)
- 17 David White (Manchester City), Dean Saunders (Aston Villa)

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

- 36 Guy Whittingham (Portsmouth)
- 24 John Aldridge (Tranmere)
- 23 Gary Blissett (Brentford)
- 20 Paul Furlong (Watford), Paul Kitson (Derby)
- 19 Craig Maskell (Swindon), Trevor Morley (West Ham), David Kelly (Newcastle)

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

- 44 Ally McCoist (Rangers)
- 23 Duncan Shearer (Aberdeen), Mark Hateley (Rangers)
- 19 Paul Wright (St Johnstone)
- 16 Billy Dodds (Dundee), Eoin Jess (Aberdeen)

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

- 28 Kevin Francis (Stockport)
- 25 Mark Stein (Stoke), Andy Walker (Bolton)

- 24 Bob Taylor (West Bromwich)
- 21 Sean McCarthy (Bradford)
- 18 Jimmy Quinn (Reading), Andy Saville (Hartlepool)

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

- 26 Darren Foreman (Scarborough)
- 24 Carl Griffiths (Shrewsbury)
- 19 Wayne Clarke (Walsall), Gary Bennett (Wrexham)
- 17 Gary Bull (Barnet)
- 15 Phil Stant (Cardiff)

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

- 30 Gordon Dalziel (Raith)
- 20 Alex Mathie (Morton)
- 15 Ken Eadie (Clydebank)
- 14 Craig Brewster (Raith), Mike Flannigan (Clydebank), Barry Lavety (St Mirren)

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

- 21 Alex Ross (Brechin), Stuart Sorbie (Arbroath)
- 20 Miller Mathieson (Stenhousemuir)
- 18 Stewart Petrie (Forfar)
- 16 Barrie Moffat (Alloa)
- 14 Ian Thomson (Queen of the South), Thomas Sloan (Stranraer)

PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester Utd	31	17	9	5	49	24	60
Aston Villa	31	17	8	6	48	31	59
Norwich	31	15	8	8	44	46	53
Queen's Pk R	31	13	8	10	44	37	47
Sheffield Wed	30	12	10	8	40	34	46
Coventry	31	12	10	9	45	40	46
Blackburn	30	12	9	9	43	32	45
Ipswich	31	10	14	7	37	34	44
Tottenham	31	12	8	11	39	47	44
Manchester City	30	12	7	11	43	34	43
Southampton	32	11	9	12	40	40	42
Arsenal	30	11	7	12	27	27	40
Chelsea	31	10	10	11	33	38	40
Leeds	31	10	9	12	41	45	39
Liverpool	30	9	9	12	40	42	36
Wimbledon	31	9	9	13	36	39	36
Everton	31	10	6	15	35	42	36
Crystal Palace	31	8	11	12	37	47	35
Sheffield Utd	31	9	7	15	37	41	34
Middlesbrough	31	8	9	14	38	52	33
Nottingham Forest	30	8	8	14	30	39	32
Oldham	30	7	7	16	40	55	28

HITS AND MISSES

With the National League entering the final stages before the playoffs, it seems an appropriate time to look back at some of successes and flops of the players who joined new clubs at the beginning of the season.

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD

SUCCESSFUL SIGNINGS

GEORGE JOLEVSKI

Versatile defender who left Sydney CSC for Bossley Park. Has had a good season and recently scored a couple of cracking goals.

MATTHEW BINGLEY

Bingley has slotted in well as stopper this season and is likely to be Marconi regular for many years.

FLOPS

RICHARD MACHADO

Has missed all season due to injury. Signed from Uruguay and unfortunately the only action he has seen is from the sidelines.

TONY PEZZANO

Veteran goalkeeper who began the season in fine form but was replaced by Mark Schwarzer, when the youngster recovered from his shoulder injury.

BLAGOJA KULESKI

Signed from Yugoslavia and struggled to settle in as sweeper. Has performed better in midfield in the last few matches.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

SUCCESSFUL SIGNING

DAVID SEAL

Seal was signed from Marconi for \$40,000 and the striker has done well for strugglers Sydney Olympic. His partnership with Zlatko Arambasic is looking dangerous.

Signing of the Season

West Adelaide's
Jose Iriarte



Iriarte has been transformed into a prolific goalscorer this season. Surprisingly Iriarte struggled last season with Sydney CSC, and it was with Warringah Dolphins that the explosive Argentine found his form in last years NSW State League. The Argentine is also one of the most skilful players around and Raul Blanco has one of the most prized players in Australia at West Adelaide.

FLOPS

BRANKO MILOSEVIC

Another big money signing, this time from Melbourne CSC. The former Socceroo has been below his best for most of the season.

HEIDELBERG UNITED

SUCCESSFUL SIGNING

DAVID CLARKSON

Clarkson has fitted in well after being signed from First Division Brighton in England.

FLOPS

ALLY DICK

The former Tottenham, Ajax and Brighton winger has had a nightmare season with injuries. His fitness was questioned at the beginning of the season but

28-year-old Dick is now returning to form during United's recent good run of results.

SYDNEY CSC

SUCCESSFUL SIGNING

JOHN GIBSON

A \$20,000 signing from Leichhardt Tigers, the impish midfielder had a superb start of the season. Returning to form recently,



Blagoja Kuleski

the former Young Socceroo has been one of Manfred Schaefer most astute signings.

NEWCASTLE BHP

SUCCESSFUL SIGNINGS

WARREN SPINK

Coach Bruce Stowell spent wisely when he signed Spink at the beginning of the season. Spink is now playing some of his best football with the Breakers.

DARREN STEWART

Stewart has been solid as a rock all season. A bargain buy from Leichhardt Tigers considering he is one of the most dynamic defenders in the National League.

FLOPS

ROD BROWN

The former Socceroo striker has really struggled to score goals on a regular basis this season. Was signed to ling up with Spink but the pair have hardly set up a formidable understanding.

MELBOURNE CSC

SUCCESSFUL SIGNINGS

VAUGHAN COVENY

The Kiwi striker has impressed the Somers Street faithful with his performances this season.

BOGDAN BONK

Was in inspirational form at the start of the season but Melbourne refused to pay North Geelong's asking price and the midfield veteran is unlikely to return to National League action.

ADELAIDE CITY

FLOPS

DAMIAN MORI

The Olyroo star has struggled to find his feet with the new look Adelaide City this season.

MIKE GRBEYSKI

Left Adelaide on unhappy terms two months ago. The Socceroo full back couldn't settle in Adelaide. Looks likely to sign for his old club St George.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES

SUCCESSFUL SIGNING

PETER GUNNING

Undoubtedly Rale Rasic's best buy. The

former Warringah Dolphins and AIS goalkeeper has been one of the most outstanding keepers in the National League this season.

FLOPS

DAVID LOWE

Has struggled all season with fitness. Is only now returning to his old scoring form.

NICK ORLIC

Has struggled all season to find his way into the first team and might have to return to State football to regain his confidence.



Warren Spink

has had an outstanding season, scoring the goals which have kept South Melbourne top of the National League.

DEAN ANASTASIADIS

Bought from State side Fawcner, Anastasiadis has kept the No.1 goalkeeping jersey with some stunning performances this season.

PRESTON

SUCCESSFUL SIGNING

JOHN MARKOVSKI

Despite Preston struggling at the foot of the table for most of the season, Markovski has been at his best with some outstanding performances and goals.



David Clarkson

WEST ADELAIDE

SUCCESSFUL SIGNINGS

HUGO GIMENEZ

Has proved to be a real asset to West Adelaide this season giving coach Raul Blanco 100 per cent commitment.

STAN LAZARIDIS

Influential full back who has impressed many with his attacking runs down the left hand side this season.

SOUTH MELBOURNE

SUCCESSFUL SIGNINGS

FRANCIS AWARITEFE

Signed from arch rivals Melbourne CSC, Awaritefe



Branko Milosevic (far right)



Matthew Bingley

Eagles new stars

"I would like more money to buy players but the club, quite rightly, didn't want any outstanding debts before a ball is kicked in the Super league."



Eagles coach Mike Johnson

Bonnyrigg White Eagles coach Mike Johnson is convinced his lack of big spending in the transfer market this year will eventually pay dividends in the team's quest to retain the NSW Super League.

"Last year we were seen as the big spenders of the Super League," said Johnson.

"That was just not true. We sold Steven Berry and Martin Driene for \$7,500 which we used to get new players.

"We only spent extra money on guest players Paul Foster, Greg Brown and Hugo Gimenez.

"There was even talk that we broke the transfer market record when we, apparently, paid \$23,000 for Gus Cerro from Marconi.

"We only paid \$1,000 to

have Cerro on loan," added Johnson.

To say Bonnyrigg have spent wisely for this season's campaign is an understatement as Johnson has only spent, in real terms, \$1,500 on new players.

"That's right, we sold four players to Blacktown City for \$9,000 and we have spent only \$10,500 on eight new players," explained Johnson.

"I would like more money to buy players but the club, quite rightly, didn't want any outstanding debts before a ball is kicked in the Super league."

The players that surprisingly left Bonnyrigg for Blacktown were defender David Batten (free transfer), Andrew Brockbank (\$3,000), Scott Fitzharris (\$3,000), Scott Ashton (\$3,000).

Johnson wanted those players at Bonnyrigg.

"All four played really well towards the end of the season and I've got to be honest and admit they will be hard to replace.

"We have also lost Chris Ackerley and guest players Hugo Gimenez, Greg Brown and Paul Foster," said Johnson.

Johnson has spent \$5,000 on Wollongong United striker Stephan Janic to replace David Batten up front for the Eagles.

Janic came back half way through last season after spending one and half years out of the game due to injury.

Returning for Bonnyrigg will be the skilful veteran Osvaldo El Ali, who was one of the stars for the club last season when the team won the minor premiership, championship and the

Edensor Park to Lambert Park

Leichhardt Tigers coach Manfred Schaefer is still unsure whether he will be back at Edensor Park next season with Sydney CSC.

However, the former Socceroo hero, will see out the season with Sydney CSC and at the same time coach Leichhardt Tigers.

"I took the Leichhardt job basically because they were the first club to offer me a contract," said Schaefer.

"That's not to say I'm not

interested in going back to Edensor Park next season.

"I will just have to wait and see how things work out at both clubs over the next three or four weeks."

Schaefer was in Canberra watching his side last Saturday come from a 2-0 deficit to grab a 2-2 draw with Canberra Deakin.

"We started really badly but in the end I was more than happy with a point.

"We obviously need a

couple of more players but we will have to wait until April before we can sign any players from the National League."

It should be a very hard Super League to predict, as a handful of clubs have the chance to top the league and gain promotion to the National League.

If Leichhardt Tigers can stay in contention until a couple of National League players can be signed, then

Schaefer should have a side that can challenge the likes of Blacktown City and Bonnyrigg White Eagles for the championship.

What is very unlikely to occur is Bonnyrigg White Eagles winning the grand final, league championship and Waratah Cup Final.

"I think it will be a very close league, let's just hope that we are in with a chance at the beginning of October," said Schaefer.

Kwasniewski signs

WOLLONGONG United coach Albin Milukski believes new signing Adam Kwasniewski will be one of the most outstanding players in the State League this season.

Kwasniewski was Federation Player of the Year while with Polonia last season and has settled in well at Wollongong.

Operating in the centre of midfield, he was outstanding in Wollongong's 4-1 win over Canterbury in the opening round.

Kwasniewski scored a goal and was the most creative player on the field.

Mikulski, a former Polonia coach, has secured a number of players from his old club, including winger Yanak Kowicki.

The coach admitted being slightly surprised at the ease of his team's win over

Canterbury.

He said he would make sure his players keep their feet on the ground. "We have a new-look team and will be taking things week by week," he said.

"It is nice to get three points from the first game but it is a very long season."

Since the win against Canterbury, Wollongong has re-signed sweeper Lupoho Dimov and midfielder Danis Colusso, from Polonia.

Dimov had been in dispute with the club over match fees and the matter only sorted itself out after the Canterbury match.

Colusso, a former Marconi player, has since been on the books of a number of State League clubs.

He arrived at United hoping to play in the centre of midfield but Mikulski was quite happy with

Kwasniewski and Chris Minol in that department.

That leaves Colusso to play a wide role and Mikulski believes he will do it well.

Mikulski is tipping 19-year-old fullback Andon Dzeparovski to have a big season and come under the notice of one or two NSL clubs.

Dzeparovski made his State League debut last season and was outstanding.

A strong defender, the youngster also proved himself more than capable in going forward.

Club president Alex Kancevski, who has returned to the club this year, believes they have to cut costs dramatically to survive.

He said player payments have been cut to \$250 a win, \$150 a draw and \$100 a loss.

While it is generally accepted one or two players

are getting more than those amounts, the club has adopted a miser's approach compared to last season.

Kancevski said Wollongong has thrown money away over the last three years.

"Our aim now is to consolidate a place in the league and have our ground at Berkeley ready to go for the start of next season," he said.

"We are receiving strong financial support from Wollongong's Macedonia Church to get the ground finished.

"That has to be our main priority.

"The days of spending big money on playing and finishing down the table are over.

"We have young boys who now get the chance to prove themselves."

JAPAN AT BLACKTOWN

JAPANESE Professional Soccer League ('J' League) side A.S. Flugels are in a pre-season training camp at the NSW Soccer Federation's, Valentine Park for three weeks.

As part of that preparation, A.S. Flugels will play two games using 'A' and a 'B' squads at the Gabbie Stadium, Quinn Avenue, off Lucas Road, Seven Hills. The date of these games is Thursday, March 18 with a 6pm kick off for A.S. Flugels 'B' versus Blacktown City Demons, the leading NSW Super League club.

A.S. Flugels 'A' take on the NSW Representative senior squad at 8pm. These two games should be fascinating contests and

provide a very good nights entertainment. An entrance donation of \$5.00 will be charged. All entry monies will go to local charities, as is the practice at the Blacktown club.

A.S. Flugels are sponsored by All Nippon Airways and a construction company. They are based at Tokyo's port city of Yokohama. 'A' stands for ANA 'S' stands for Sato Kogyo. Flugels is a German word meaning wings.

The club has 33 players on the camp. Most are Japanese. Top rated El Salvador international Arber leads the defence. In midfield Argentine international, Daniel comes from the San Lorenzo club while the great Edu, otherwise Carlos

Marangon, has been recruited from Brazil.

Two forwards from Brazil namely Pretti and Menon complete the foreign contingent.

The clubs in the 'J' League are all heavily sponsored by major Japanese companies. Grampus eight from Nagoya have Toyota as their backer. Each club will need \$3-4 million to make a success of the new competition.

Japan are applying for the World Cup in 2002 and are determined to be a major force in Asian and world soccer football before then.

A fine couple of challengers are in store with players eager to perform at the very top of their ability. A good crowd will bring out

the best on the park. Ken Schembri's Blacktown City will have the first two rounds of the new season behind them, coming off a hard contest against Warringah Dolphins.

The Rale Rasic trained NSW squad will be seeking a pattern to prepare them for battles to come against Queensland. A.S. Flugels' players will be eager to consolidate their first team spots or be trying to impress from the seconds to get considered for the top team.

March 18
6pm Blacktown City Demons vs A.S. Flugels 'B'
8pm NSW State Reps vs A.S. Flugels 'A'.

Johnson's new signings

Greg Carluccio, 20-year-old full back from St George, signed for \$1,000.
Sasha Talsman, 19, striker from Liverpool City, signed for \$500.
Matthew Curmi, 19, defender from West Wanderers, a free transfer.
Keir Suggett, 16, midfielder from Parramatta Eagles Juniors, a free transfer.
Stephan Janic, 27, striker from Wollongong United, signed for \$5,000.
Alfredo Barrios cost \$2,500.
Norman Tome signed from Dulwich Hill on a free transfer.
Dejan Jakovljevic signed from Victoria for \$1,000.

Robertson aims to be a force

Despite last weekend's 5-0 thrashing by Super League favourites Blacktown City, Eastern Suburbs' coach Alex Robertson states that they won't be finishing bottom of the Super League this year.

"We were unlucky last season to finish bottom and this year we are even more experienced.

"A lot of people have been saying that we should have spent heavily in the off season," said coach Alex Robertson.

"We just don't have the money to sign current or ex National League players - we will just have to do with what we've got at the club."

Eastern suburbs, in their first game of the season, had

nine players in the team which played in the opening game of 1992.

The lack of new players and new signing's will put pressure on Alex Robertson's small squad of players who finished bottom of the Super League last season.

Robertson though is adamant that Eastern

Suburbs will over the next few years become a force in the Super League.

Robertson played for the great Sydney City at Sydney Athletic Field, the home now of Eastern Suburbs.

"I know the ground really well and hopefully one day we will have bigger crowds than we did when Sydney City played," said Robertson.

National League to State League

With the National League in recess due to the World Youth Championships, the NSW State League kicked off last week depleted of many National League stars who were either not released by their clubs or had yet to officially sign by State teams.

With clubs having to be financially stringent to survive, most clubs have had to look to untried players and veterans to start their 1993 campaign for success.

With no players currently playing in the National League turning out for NSW State League teams last weekend, we take a poignant look at the clubs and some of the players who have had National League experience.

Bankstown City MSC

Scott Bailie
23-year-old defender who previously played for Newcastle BHP will be a regular this season for Bankstown.

Tony Bojkovski

21-year-old defender who was once on the books of Sydney CSC, is on the fringe of a first team place.

Scott Gilbert

The leading goalscorer last season and was surprisingly not signed by a National League side. The 25-year-old striker is crucial to Bankstown's success this season.

Anthony Surjan

Former Marconi player, currently struggling to get into Bankstown first team.

Blacktown City

Andrew Charlwood

Former Marconi midfielder player who is finding it hard to brake into the new look Demons side.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Alfredo Barrios

Former Parramatta Eagles defender at 33 is vying for a first team place at Bonnyrigg. May well be invaluable at the end of the season when injuries mount.

Canberra Deakin

Tony Lemezina

Former Melbourne CSC

and Apia striker was one of Canberra's stars last season scoring with a flourish of goals at the end of the season.

Paul Jones

Former Marconi keeper who is now reserve to Anthony Giannasca.

Leichhardt Tigers

Brian Ellam

Played in the National League with Leichhardt last season. Much valued player who could lead the side back into the top flight.

Paul Carter

Solid defender who has had many years in the National League. Almost retired from soccer at the end of last season.

Warringah Dolphins

Glenn Sterrey

Experienced defender who played in the National League with Richard Miranda.

Tough tackling midfielder who had many years in the National League.

Wollongong United

John Bowel

Goalkeeper who was once at Marconi-Fairfield.



Brian Ellam

Soccer Weekly's Super League Scoreboard

Super League standings

Blacktown City	1	■	0	0	0	5	0	3
Wollongong Utd	1	■	0	0	0	4	1	3
CYC Stanmore	1	■	0	0	0	4	2	3
Rockdale	1	■	0	0	0	2	0	3
St George	1	■	0	0	0	2	0	3
Leichhardt	1	■	1	0	0	2	2	2
Canberra	1	■	1	0	0	2	2	2
Bankstown City	1	■	0	1	0	0	0	1
Warringah	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Bonnyrigg	1	0	0	0	1	2	4	0
Adamstown	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Sutherland Shire	1	■	0	0	1	0	2	0
Canterbury Marr.	1	■	0	0	1	1	4	0
Eastern Sub.	1	■	0	0	1	0	5	0

Leading Goalscorers

(After Round 1)

3	Batten D. (Blacktown City)
2	Kwasninski A. (Wollongong United)
1	Easthorpe R. (Blacktown City)
1	Bradley P. (Blacktown City)
1	Dukic S. (Canberra Deakin)
1	Lemizina T. (Canberra Deakin)

Player of the Year Points

(POY) After Round 1

3	Sterrey G. (Warringah Dolphins)
3	Batten D. (Blacktown City)
3	Clinch S. (Leichhardt Tigers)
3	Cabassi T. (Sutherland Shire)
3	Nowicki J. (Wollongong United)
3	Chistodoulou H. (CYC Stanmore)
3	Perinich T. (St George)

Super League results

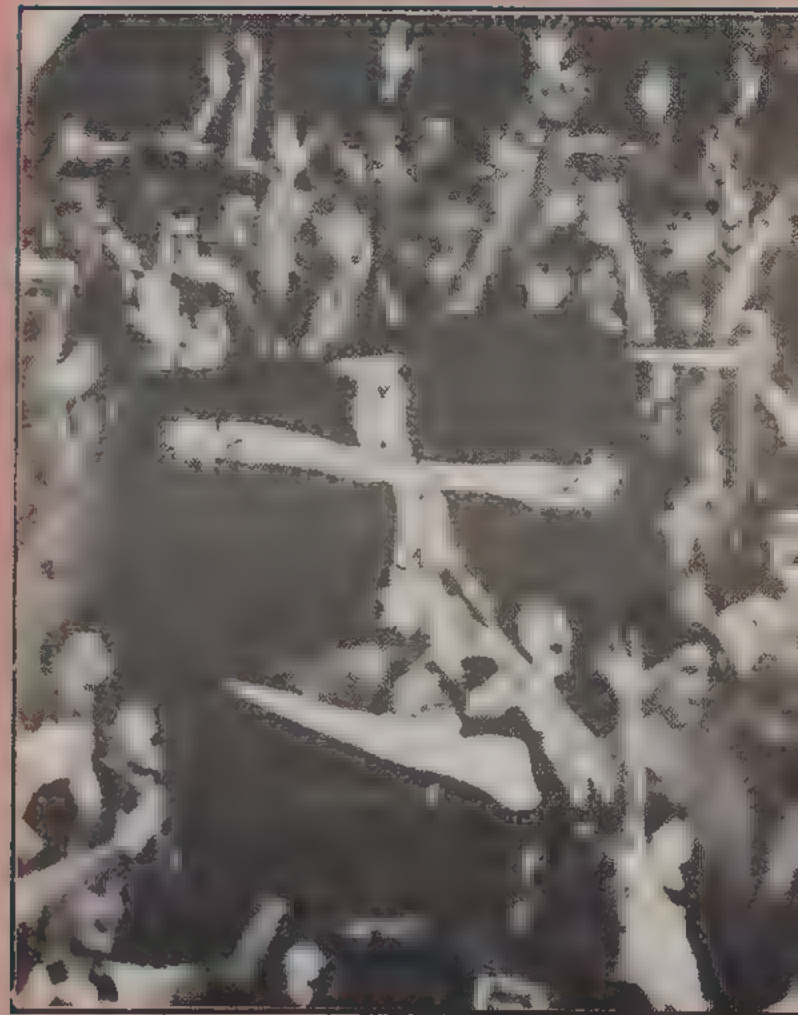
ROUND 1

Leichhardt Tigers	2	Canberra Deakin	2
Sutherland Shire	2	Rockdale Ilinden	2
Warringah Dolphins	0	Bankstown City	0
Blacktown City	5	Eastern Suburbs	0
St George	2	Adamstown Rosebud	0
CYC Stanmore	4	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	2
Wollongong United	4	Canterbury Marrickville	1

THE OPENING



It's there, it's there – celebrations all done inside the touch line!



The flag waving A



They all want to hold it. Will Kevin



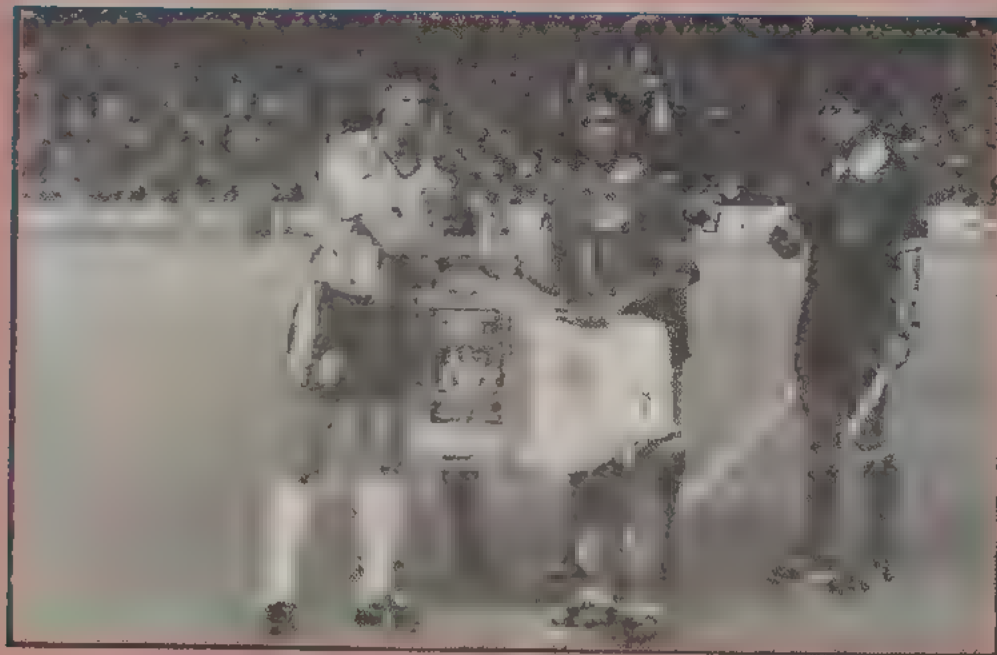
The Young Socceroos line up for the opening fixture

On Friday the 5th of March a spectacular opening ceremony for the Youth Cup. Australia '93 is the Australian Soccer Federation's most important event. Second only to the World Cup itself. The event was a majestic occasion with a brilliant crowd of 32,000. Australia capped off the ceremony with a 2-1 win over the highly-fancied

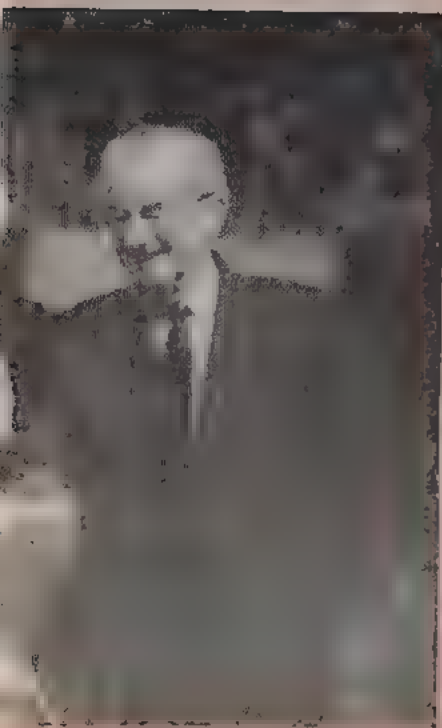
CELEBRATION CEREMONY



...ssies go wild



Muscat and Zambrano exchanged pennants before the kick-off



Muscat have the final touch?

Australia staged a
ony for the 7th World
second time that the
as held this prestigious
nce to the World Cup
on - watched by a
ony with a stunning
Colombians.



Highly fancied opponents Colombia were gunned down 2-1

ALL THE VICTORIAN ACTION STARTS HERE

ALTONA HAS HARD FIGHT

By JOHN RIGAS

ALTONA Gate won its first Premier League match in an excellent 3-2 victory over St Albans at Churchill Reserve on Saturday.

This was a typical Western Suburbs derby game in which both teams fought for the ball like Lions.

The Saints took the lead in the 33rd minute, through a defender Chris Ketsakidis, he was set up by player coach Les Carter.

The veteran midfielder chipped the ball over the Altona defence to find Ketsakidis unmarked and the St Albans star blasted his shot past goalkeeper Sean Keogh.

Just before half time there was a scuffle behind play which involved St Albans striker Charles Fitzpatrick and Altona's Craig Lewis.

The home team had most of the play in the first half, but all that changed in the second

In the 64th minute Altona scored the equalising goal, from a

ST ALBANS 2
ALTONA GATE 3

penalty in which Mick Colina handled the ball in the area.

Upstepped their new signing Craig Lewis to send his spot kick into the bottom right hand corner, sending Keogh the wrong way.

Man of the match, Robert Trajkovski set up the second goal for Altona, when he stole the ball from Ketsakidis, then rounded Carter, ran down the right flank, where Trajkovski was outside the penalty area, his cross found the explosive Ice Kutlesovski who headed the ball past Keogh.

The best goal was left to last. It was Altona's Tony Necevski who scored it from 25 metres out, he saw Keogh off his line and lobbed the ball into the top right hand corner of the net to make the score 3-1.

With two minutes to play, St Albans scored their second goal. Midfielder Ante Kovacevic was fouled by Paul Harris in the penalty area and up stepped Carter to make the final score 3-2.

There is no doubt any team playing Altona this season will have their work cut out.

ST ALBANS: Keogh, Opasinas, Ketsakidis, Radic, Colina, Carter, Milanovic, Kovacevic, Kolar, Fitzpatrick (Trogrlic), Alilovic.
ALTONA GATE: Janakievski, Micevski, Momirovski, Harris, Byrne, Tate (Todorovski), Van Egmond, Trajkovski, Lewis, Micevski, Kutlesovski.
REFEREE: Nestor Zachariadis.
GOALS: Ketsakidis 33', Lewis 64', Kutlesovski, Necevski, Carter 88'.
VOTES: Trajkovski (AG) 3, Byrne (AG) 2, Carter (St A) 1.

SPRINGVALE CITY DEMOLISH CAULFIELD

By DENNIS CHRISTO

CAULFIELD CITY 1
SPRINGVALE CITY 4

SPRINGVALE City took the honours in the battle of the newcomers when they beat Caulfield City 4-1 at Princes Park on Saturday.

It took only 10 minutes for Springvale to open the scoring, when 'most exciting player' Mark Wilson won the ball in midfield and sent Danny Nield on his way, who dribbled the keeper to make it 1-0.

The Vales settled the better as there were very few clearcut chances from both teams in the early stages.

In the second half, Springvale added further to the score with goals from Wilson

and Stirton.

A Mark Lennon corner was controlled brilliantly outside the box by Wilson whose left foot shot travelled into the back of the net.

Substitute Stirton made it three for the Vale's when in the 73rd minute he got on the end of a Danny Nield corner with his head.

Although on the back foot Caulfield were unlucky not to have a few on the board as Stenson and Kalogeros came close. Caulfield's pressure was rewarded when a penalty was given to and converted by Nick Deligiannis after he had

been fouled by Doug Nolan.

Nolan made up for this when he pounced a goal line clearance and sealed the visitors fourth goal in injury time.

An ecstatic Gus McLeod later complemented his

players as they showed great discipline having come off a game during the week whilst Caulfield Coach Jim Kondilis highlighted his teams inexperience in the Premier League.

The match wasn't as one-sided as the Reserves where the Vales hammered Caulfield into submission, an unbelievable 18-0!

CAULFIELD: Kaletsis, Argyriou, Dimitrelos, Filipou, Sakellarios, Kalogeros, Ubachs (Kozbanis), Papadopoulos, Deligiannis, Stenson, Tuck.
SPRINGVALE: Zealley, Thomas, Nolan, Walsh, May, Nelson, Wilson, Maguire (Kerny), Hanna (Stirton), Nield, Lennon.
REFEREE: James Hogg.
GOALS: Nield 10', Wilson 55', Stirton 73', Deligiannis 77', Nolan 92'.
VOTES: Wilson (Spr) 3, Nield (Spr) 2, Stenson (Caut) 1.



Brett Rice (front) of Brunswick United Juventus leads Steve Jerbic of North Geelong. (photo by Bruce Long)

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**SATURDAY
MATCH RESULTS
SERVICE**

- STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4
- PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISIONS 1 TO 3

(Updated each Saturday evening by 6.30pm)

GEELONG BACK FROM DEAD

By ROY HAY

NORTH Geelong came back from the dead to defeat Brunswick United Juventus by two goals to one at Elcho Park in the replay of last year's Grand Final.

If it had been a boxing match, it would have been declared a "No contest" at half-time and North would have no excuses.

The corner count of 7-0 to Juventus, a string of near misses by its forwards, including the usually lethal Steve Smith and a ball in the net by Sean Lane chalked off for offside, tells the story.

For its dominance, Juventus had only a single goal, scored after 22 minutes, when Frank Sabatino had his shot blocked by North keeper

NORTH GEELONG..... 2
BRUNSWICK JUV..... 1

Marijan Vunderl, and Raf Bakker hammered home the rebound.

North coach, Tony Vrzina's half-time tirade was to the effect, "You have 10 minutes, and then I'll take the lot off you off."

What a transformation! North's midfield, which had been invisible in the first half, suddenly reappeared.

Marty Bozic sent a long ball forward in the 59th minute. Keeper Peter Laumets came out to clear, but was quickly closed down by John Didulica, who robbed him, pulled the ball back, looked up and sent a precise chip inside the post as two Juventus

defenders tried to clear. The ball and the defenders finished in the net.

In the 71st minute, Ivan Skoko won a hard ball for almost the first time and sent David Krasic down the left. Krasic used the inside of his foot to curl the ball away from the keeper to the far post where Didulica

out-jumped the defence to force the ball home.

Richie O'Sullivan, who had a torrid first half, and was targeted by Juventus coach, Billy Rogers as the weak spot in the North defence, came on for a splendid second half in which he created a series of openings down the left.

Substitute Dino Grillo missed from the right in front of goal and his misery summed up Juventus' first ever defeat at Elcho Park.

NORTH GEELONG: Vunderl, O'Sullivan, Cosic, Cervinski, Emsovski, Jerbic, Stojanovski, Bozic, Didulica, Skoko, Krasic.
JUVENTUS: Laumets, Marley, Ferla, Mazzini, Sonsini, Lane, Rice, Sabatino, Smith, Bakker (Grillo), Bazzano.
REFEREE: John Rutter.
GOALS: Bakker 22', Didulica 59' & 71'.
VOTES: Didulica (NG) 3, Ferla (Juve) 2, Jerbic (NG) 1.

Gully waste chances

By THEO KARAPANIS

GREEN GULLY.....1
CROYDON CITY..... 0

GREEN Gully notched up its first victory of the season by defeating Croydon 1-0 via a free kick and goal by John Campelj.

The Green's started off well by controlling the midfield.

They could have taken the lead in the fourth minute after some good lead up work by Jankovic and Campelj which saw the ball come across the right flank with Chetcuti heading wide.

Chances went begging for Green Gully as shots by Burlak and Campelj were well saved by Croydon keeper Mark Turudja.

Further opportunities went Gully's way after a forceful run and cut back by Zlatko Belic which was met by a sliding Jankovic who spooned the ball over the bar from (5) yards.

The most clearcut chance

of the game was in the 40th minute when a Campelj cross was well headed back across goal by Jankovic, only to see youngster Burlak put his shot wide from close range.

Green Gully went into the half-time break with nothing to show from its dominance in midfield at missed chances kept the Don's in the game.

The deadlock was broken in the 50th minute by ABSW man of the match

Campelj.

His free kick from 25 yards was hot low and hard into the bottom corner giving Turudja no chance and giving the Greens a 1-0 victory.

Coach Dusan Kalezic was happy with the result but criticised playing midweek games after (4) of his star players were carrying knocks from Wednesday nights fixture.

GREEN GULLY: Sant, P. Spiteri, Ciantar, Belic (Latomanski), Barjaktarevic, Chetcuti, Santa Lucia, Gymnopoulos (D. Spiteri), Jankovic, Campelj, A. Burlak.
CROYDON: Turudja, Field, Gotis, Hennessy, Cubit, O'Dell (Simon Field), McBride, Kaukiainen, Gilder, Klepac, Ireland.
REFEREE: Jim Markovski.
GOAL: Campelj 50'.
VOTES: Campelj (GG) 3, Ciantar (GG) 2, Gilder (Croy) 1.

OLVER MAKES START

By GABRIELE CIMINELLI

THOMASTOWN..... 1
BULLEEN..... 1

FORMER Australian goalkeeper Jeff Olver made a sensational start to his life with Bulleen when he brilliantly saved a penalty to deny Thomastown their first win of the season, but it was the Devils Klaus Bichler who stole the show.

Midfielder Bichler proved himself a menace to the Bulleen defenders displaying terrific skill and close control to lift Thomastown throughout the game.

The Devils had the chance of breaking the deadlock only three minutes from half-time when Garry McMullen surged forward, resulting in a foul by Robbie Krajacic who gave referee Cain Naumcevski no other option by to point to the spot.

Steve Farquharson stepped up to take the resultant penalty driving it low and left only to be denied by spectacular save by Olver.

McMullen again caused problems for the Bulls in the second half, and used his ability to try and break the deadlock three minutes in when he placed his close range header against the crossbar, after a corner from Bichler.

In the 70th minute, a regulation catch by Olver

was surprisingly fumbled, allowing Kevin Harrison to place the ball in the net after Bulleen claimed Olver had been impeded.

Bulleen also had its chances keeping Pat Marrama busy with earlier saves from Scott Patterson and Pat Giaccherini but 11 minutes from time, Anthony Grbac stepped up to take a free kick from 35 metres which brilliantly curled over the Thomastown wall and

into the top left hand corner for the Bull's equaliser.

Thomastown's misfortune continued when only minutes from time, Di Martino limped off the ground with what appeared to be a calf injury.

Thomastown coach, Len McKendry was quite pleased with the result despite the penalty miss and McMullens missed chance early in the second half

THOMASTOWN: Marrama, Di Propertis, Constantinou, Brown, Karic, Di Martino (Raguso), Ouslka (Mihailidis), Bichler, Harrison, Farquharson, McMullen.
BULLEEN: Olver, Valentic, Vesnaver, Krajacic, Marsan, Branov, Grbac, Incantalupo, Patterson (Marino), Giaccherini, Bekiaris.
REFEREE: Cain Naumcevski.
GOALS: Harrison 70', Grbac 79'.
VOTES: Bichler (Thom) 3, Olver (Bull) 2, McMullen (Thom) 1.

PASCOE VALE SPORTS
MOST EXCITING PLAYER OF
THE YEAR AWARD

Wilson (Spr) 6
Didulica (NG) 5
Gilder (Croy), Olver (Bull) 4

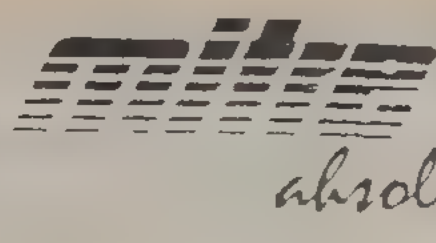
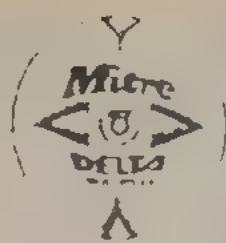


Michael Mazzini

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SIX GOAL THRILLER

By NICK
GIANNOKOPOULOS

KNOX and Fawker played out a 3-3 draw at the Egan Lee Reserve which was highlighted by six goals and the sending off of Mario Crivari for a deliberate hand ball, which was looking goalbound.

In the lead up to the sending off, a corner was quickly taken by Knox, with the Fawker defence scrambling it away momentarily.

It fell to Greg House who pounced on it driving it into the arm of Crivari denying a certain goal. Big man Peter Lutgens stepped up to take the penalty but was denied by Eric Janssen

The first goal came in the 27th minute when a persistent Seb Emmanuele got a cross to Peter Bothwell who twisted and turned to find an unmaked Manny Anezakis, who headed home easily.

Fawker's celebration was short lived by Lutgens who combined well with Spencer Jones and driving the ball

KNOX CITY 3
FAWKNER 3

hard and low, gave Jansen no chance

Towards the end of the first half, Fawker won a free kick just outside the six yard area with Carlos Retre taking the shot and curling the ball superbly past the wall and the lunging Serailis to make the score 2-1 just prior to the break.

'Magician, Peter Lutgens juggled the ball on his head and then backheaded it over Jansen who was caught off his line to equal the score.

In the closing stages of the match, Knox took the lead with substitute Greg House

who combined well with Peter Morgan who calmly flicked past the keeper

Fawker made a last ditch attempt two minutes before time with Karkaletsis finding Bothwell who demonstrated his strength by scoring a vital equaliser.

After the game, Fawker coach Ken Murphy wouldn't comment about the sending off and said it was an amazing contrast between the two halves.

Norrie Pate was upset they couldn't hold the lead and said the team showed a lot of courage in the second half.

KNOX: Serailis, Burton, Middleton, Bissinger, Chalmers, Jamieson, (House), Evans, Jones (Bakker), Hoddless, Lutgens, Morgan.

FAWKNER: Jansen, Gabrielson, Goullis, Vlatkovic (Kuzman), Anezakis, Pender, Crivari, Karkaletsis, Bothwell, Retre, Emmanuele.

REFEREE: David Milligan.

GOALS: Anezakis 27', Lutgens 35' & 76', Retre 40', Morgan 84', Bothwell 88'.

VOTES: Jansen (Fawk) 3, Lutgens (Knox) 2, Pender (Fawk) 1.



A heading duel between Ivan Skoko (No 10) of North Geelong's Husein Skenderovic of St Albans watched by Les Carter of St Albans

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Geelong	3	3	0	0	5	1	6
Springvale City	2	1	1	0	4	1	3
Bulleen	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Altona Gate	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
St Albans	3	1	0	2	5	5	2
Albion	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Knox City	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Sunshine GC	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Thomastown	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Green Gully	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Brunswick Juventus	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Croydon City	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Fawker	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Caulfield City	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

FIXTURES

DIABETES AUSTRALIA DOCKERTY CUP ROUND 2

(Saturday March 13)

Clarinda	v	Richmond
Croydon City	v	Altona Gate
Western Suburbs	v	Brunswick Juventus
St Albans	v	Caulfield
Frankston Pines	v	Oakleigh
Sunshine George Cross	v	Green Gully
Springvale City	v	Bell Park
Knox City	v	North Geelong
Thomastown	v	Sunbury United
Broadmeadows	v	Altona City
Doncaster Rovers	v	Fawker
Werribee City	v	Yoogali

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 3

(Tuesday March 16)

At Western Oval -		
Fawker	v	Green Gully
Brunswick Juventus	v	Knox City

(Thursday March 18)

At Ross Reserve		
Springvale City	v	St Albans
North Geelong	v	Caulfield City



Action from the Victorian Premier League



RESULTS

GERMANY

Wattenscheid...1	Kaiserslautern.....0
Saarbruecken...1	Bochum.....1
Cologne.....3	Dresden.....1
B. M'gladbach..2	Schalke.....0
Borussia D.....2	Bayer Uerdingen...0
VfB Stuttgart...0	Bayer Leverkusen..3
Bayern Munich 1	Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Werder Bremen 3	Karlsruhe.....0
Nuremberg.....1	Hamburg.....0

STANDINGS

Bayern Munich	20	12	7	1	42	22	31
Werder Bremen	20	10	8	2	35	19	28
Eintracht Frankfurt	20	10	8	2	36	21	28
Borussia Dortmund	20	11	4	5	37	25	26
Bayer Leverkusen	20	7	9	4	41	26	23
Karlsruhe	20	9	4	7	40	39	22
Nuremberg	20	9	3	8	20	24	21
Kaiserslautern	20	9	2	9	33	24	20
VfB Stuttgart	20	6	8	6	28	31	20
Saarbruecken	20	5	8	7	29	34	18
Schalke	20	5	8	7	18	25	18
Hamburg	20	3	11	6	24	26	17
B M'gladbach	20	5	7	8	28	36	17
Dynamo Dresden	20	5	7	8	23	31	17
Wattenscheid	20	5	6	9	27	36	16
Cologne	20	7	1	12	27	33	15
B Uerdingen	20	3	6	11	17	41	12
Bochum	20	2	7	11	21	33	11

SWITZERLAND

Teams carry over to the playoffs half the points gained in the autumn qualifying phase.

Lugano.....1	Aarau.....1
Servette.....0	Neuchatel Xamax...3
Sion.....0	Lausanne.....1
Young Boys.....0	FC Zurich.....0

STANDINGS

Young Boys	2	1	1	0	1	0	17
Sion	2	1	0	1	3	2	15
Aarau	2	1	1	0	3	1	15
Servette	2	0	0	2	0	5	14
Lausanne	2	1	0	1	1	1	14
Lugano	2	1	1	0	3	1	14
Zurich	2	0	1	1	0	2	13
N Xamax	2	1	0	1	4	3	13

GREECE

Aris.....1	Doxa.....0
Athinaikos.....1	Kalamaria.....0
Iraklis.....2	Pierikos.....1
Ionikos.....2	Apollon.....0
Larissa.....0	AEK.....1
Olympiakos.....0	Panathinaikos.....2
Panathinaikos..5	PAOK.....0
Xanthi.....2	Korinthos.....0
Edessaikos.....P	OFI.....P

STANDINGS

AEK	24	17	6	1	53	16	57
Panathinaikos	24	17	4	3	59	13	55
Olympiakos	24	13	7	4	44	22	46
Iraklis	24	13	6	5	39	28	45
OFI	23	13	5	5	43	20	42
PAOK	24	11	4	9	39	32	37

FRANCE

Le Touquet.....0	Le Havre.....3
Pont St Esprit..1	Lyon.....0
Marseille.....3	Martignes.....1
Bourg-Peronnas 2	Nantes.....4
(after extra-time)	
Strasbourg.....0	Paris St Germain...1
(after extra-time)	

HOLLAND

FC Utrecht.....0	FC Twente Enschede 1
Sparta Rotterdam..0	FC Rotterdam.....2
RKC Waalwijk..2	C Leeuwarden.....2
FC Volendam...0	Ajax Amsterdam....0

STANDINGS

PSV Eindhoven	22	16	3	3	53	19	35
F Rotterdam	23	14	7	2	53	22	35
FC Twente Enschede	23	13	6	4	43	19	32
Ajax Amsterdam	21	12	6	3	55	16	30
MVV Maastricht	23	13	4	6	39	29	30
Vitesse Arnhem	23	9	10	4	35	20	28
FC Utrecht	22	9	7	6	30	23	25
FC Volendam	21	7	9	5	29	17	23
Willem II Tilburg	23	8	7	8	24	21	23

ANDERSSON'S HORROR 1992

SWEDISH international forward Kennet Andersson's horrendous nightmare.

He was a victim of internal unrest at his Belgian club, Mechelen, and was unable to play or train properly for months. He claims that he was not paid his wages by the club, who won the Cup-winners' Cup in 1988.

Andersson is now back in Sweden, playing on loan for IFK Norrkoping. One cannot blame the big Swede for feeling bitter at the way he was handled in Belgium.

Mechelen signed him from IFK Gothenburg in 1991 for around \$2.2 million. Or then-president John Cordier signed him.

Last year Cordier left Mechelen, taking with him his hefty financial support. All of a sudden, Mechelen found out that Andersson had become a burden on their wage bill. They could have sold him, but nobody seemed sure whether the fee should go to the "owner" of the player, Cordier, or to the club.

Andersson was left in limbo as was Aussie Zlatko Arambasic, whose contract is also owned by Cordier.

"At first, I was dropped from the team," he says.

"Then I was told that I couldn't train with them. I was forced to kick about with a youth team, with kids fresh from their schoolwork."

"Mechelen were playing a war of nerves, slinging dirt my way whenever they had a chance."

Andersson is not the first foreign-based Swedish pro who has had difficulties in getting his salary paid. In the 1980s, Ulf Eriksson underwent similar problems in Greece with Aris Salonika, while more recently striker Hans Eskilsson had a long enforced lay-off because of a wrangle over lapses in payments by Portugal's Sporting Lisbon.

Andersson, helped by a Swedish sports lawyer, took the matter to FIFA, and Mechelen have now been ordered to pay \$24,000 in back payments.

By June, he should be able to move to another club.

"I have lost my playing rhythm and my place in the national team because of this," he laments.

"But now I will concentrate wholly on getting back on my feet with Norrkoping. I'm hungry for action, but one thing is for sure I've had enough of Mechelen."



KENNET ANDERSSON

WORLD CUP DRAW

The Draw for the African Second Stage was made in Sydney last week.

The winner of each group will go through to the finals to be played in United States in 1994.

(Actual dates of matches to be arranged, but the home side has choice of three dates).

GROUP A

Algeria, Nigeria, Ivory Coast

Matches to be played: April 16/17/18 Algeria vs Ivory Coast; April 30/May 1/2 Ivory Coast vs Nigeria; July 2/3/4 Nigeria vs Algeria; July 16/17/18 Ivory Coast vs Algeria; September 24/25/26 Nigeria vs Ivory Coast; October 8/9/10 Algeria vs Nigeria.

GROUP B

Morocco, Zambia, Senegal

Matches to be played: April 16/17/18 Morocco vs Senegal; April 30/May 1/2 Senegal vs Zambia; July 2/3/4 Zambia vs Morocco; July 16/17/18 Senegal vs Morocco; September 24/25/26 Zambia vs Senegal; October 8/9/10 Morocco vs Zambia.

GROUP C

Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea

Matches to be played: April 16/17/18 Cameroon vs Guinea; April 30/May 1/2 Guinea vs Egypt; July 2/3/4 Egypt vs Cameroon; July 16/17/18 Guinea vs Cameroon; September 24/25/26 Egypt vs Guinea; October 8/9/10 Cameroon vs Egypt.

RIJKAARD OUT U.S. KEEPER

ITALIAN champions AC Milan hope to have striker Marco van Basten back in action early next month but will also be deprived of his Dutch compatriot Frank Rijkaard for the next three weeks.

European footballer of the year van Basten has not played since an ankle operation in late December, a medical inspection at the club's headquarters on Friday proved, however, that he was on the road to recovery.

"He should be able to play again by early April, we have lined up the April 7 date when we meet IFK Gothenburg in the European Cup for his return," a club spokesman said.

The Swedish side are the only serious challengers to Milan for a place in the European Cup final.



AMERICAN goalkeeper Brad Friddel is at the centre of a row in the British House of Commons over his work permit to join English Premier League strugglers Nottingham Forest.

Alan Simpson, Labour Member of Parliament for Nottingham South, has tabled a motion alleging that the Department of Employment was being asked to intervene in a way which could be "detrimental" to Forest and "unfairly influence" the outcome of the League.

He called on the department to approve Forest's application and allow the club to concentrate on securing their place in the League.



SAVICEVIC STRUGGLING

By CHARLES HAPPELL

DESPITE references that would impress even the most stony-hearted employer, Dejan Savicevic has found work hard to come by this season.

The Montenegrin arrived at AC Milan from Red Star Belgrade last year having built a reputation as one of the best midfielders in Europe. Some pundits went so far as to say he was the best in the world.

But in the all-star cast that is AC Milan, Savicevic's credentials have been swamped by the names and reputations of Marco Van Basten, Franco Baresi, Ruud Gullit, Jean-Pierre Papin and half a dozen others.

A victim of Milan's embarrassment of foreign riches — the club have six non-Italians on their books but only three are allowed to play in any one game — Savicevic's appearances have been confined to the occasional league and Italian Cup fixture.

For much of this season he has sat idly by while those in the queue in front of him, France's Papin and Dutchmen Van Basten, Gullit and Frank Rijkaard, helped extend Milan's record unbeaten league run to more than 55 games.

Savicevic has played just five league games in Milan's



Dejan Savicevic

total of 15 wins and five draws and made four cup appearances.

Earlier this month he gave a glimpse of his abilities with masterful displays in the league against Genoa and a cup tie against Derby rivals Internazionale before frustratingly suffering a hamstring injury.

At Milanello, the club's luxurious training camp, the gifted left-footer made it clear in a recent interview he was not going to tolerate too much more bench-warming.

"If I can play regularly I'll finish my (four-year) contract at Milan, if not I'll go," Savicevic said.

"When I was not playing

earlier in the season I was feeling very bad inside. I suffer when I am in the grandstand

"I got to the point where I started having rows with my wife at home. I couldn't find peace.

"I don't think it's fair to not play for 50 days then be expected to play well in one half of football

"Marseille and other teams called me and for a moment I thought I might leave, but soccer's so strange. Two matches are enough to change your life.

"Now I'm happy because I've achieved something; not much but something."

Despite a lack of exposure, Savicevic has no shortage of influential fans.

"Savicevic is a great player and belongs to that very small group of champions who alone justify the price of a ticket," said Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi who last made such an observation about none other than Diego Maradona.

Milan President Silvio Berlusconi calls him "untouchable" because of his ability to carry the ball past any number of lunging tackles and says he is "clearly the recruit of the season".

And with the local sports bible, Gazzetta Dello Sport, also throwing its weight behind the "give Savicevic a go" campaign, pressure is

building on Milan coach Fabio Capello to change his selection policy in a way which is kinder to the Montenegrin.

"Milan has broken all sorts of records and has nothing to be ashamed of," wrote a Gazzetta Dello Sport leader.

"But preventing Savicevic from playing every Sunday — and turning him into a part-timer — is a crime against soccer."

It is precisely this individuality, and a reluctance to conform to Milan's strict game plan, that may limit Savicevic's future appearances in the red and black strip.

Milan has not got where it is through luck and short-term planning. Its success is due to carefully-planned strategies that revolve around team solidarity.

There is little room for Mavericks like Savicevic, especially when they are vying for a midfield spot with former European Player of the Year and favourite son Gullit.

But Savicevic seems determined to stick it out and make his mark with the world's top team.

"I want to stay here for four years if I can, and I hope things will now improve," he said.

"How could one leave a team, an environment like this?"

RESULTS

HOLLAND continued	
RKC Waalwijk	23 8 7 8 33 40 23
Sparta Rotterdam	23 6 8 9 26 38 20
FC Groningen	21 5 8 8 20 30 18
GAE Deventer	23 6 6 11 28 44 18
C Leeuwarden	23 3 11 9 24 34 17
Roda JC Kerkrade	21 6 3 12 30 41 15
FC Den Bosch	22 2 7 13 18 50 11
Fortuna Sittard	22 4 2 16 19 55 10
Dordrecht '90	23 2 5 16 12 53 9

BELGIUM

Lokeren	.....0	Boom	.....0
Molenbeek	.....1	Club Brugge	.....2
Waregem	.....0	Anderlecht	.....2
Mechelen	.....1	Standard Liege	.....0
Lommel	.....3	Charleroi	.....1
Beveren	.....2	Lierse	.....0
FC Liege	.....1	Ekeren	.....1

STANDINGS

Anderlecht	24	19	4	1	58	19	42
Standard Liege	25	14	6	5	47	29	34
Waregem	25	12	6	7	61	35	30
Club Brugge	25	12	6	7	37	24	30
Molenbeek	25	9	10	6	35	28	28
Mechelen	24	12	3	9	35	26	27
Beveren	25	11	5	9	33	31	27
Ghent	25	10	7	8	36	31	27
Antwerp	24	11	4	9	42	38	26
Lierse	25	10	5	10	36	35	25
Charleroi	25	9	7	9	38	37	25
FC Liege	25	8	7	10	34	50	23
Genk	23	6	10	7	26	23	22
Cercle Brugge	25	6	8	11	48	57	20
Ekeren	24	7	5	12	38	46	19
Boom	25	5	4	16	33	74	14
Lokeren	25	3	7	15	21	44	13
Lommel	25	4	4	17	29	60	12

ITALY

Ancona	.....0	Genoa	.....0
Atalanta	.....1	Inter	.....1
Foggia	.....0	Brescia	.....0
Juventus	.....4	Napoli	.....3
Milan	.....2	Fiorentina	.....0
Parma	.....2	Lazio	.....1
Pescara	.....2	Udinese	.....2
Roma	.....1	Cagliari	.....1
Sampdoria	.....0	Torino	.....1

STANDINGS

AC Milan	22	17	5	0	51	17	39
Internazionale	22	10	8	4	37	28	28
Torino	22	8	10	4	26	17	26
Lazio	22	9	7	6	43	33	25
Juventus	22	9	7	6	39	30	25
Atalanta	22	10	5	7	27	28	25
Cagliari	22	9	6	7	22	21	24
Sampdoria	22	8	7	7	35	34	23
Parma	22	9	5	8	25	25	23
Roma	22	7	8	7	26	22	22
Udinese	22	8	4	10	32	32	20
Napoli	22	7	5	10	32	34	19
Foggia	22	6	7	9	25	36	19
Fiorentina	22	5	8	9	35	38	18
Brescia	22	5	7	10	18	28	17
Genoa	22	4	9	9	28	42	17
Ancona	22	5	4	13	30	47	14
Pescara	22	4	4	14	30	48	12

SPAIN

Atletico Madrid	.....2	Real Oviedo	.....1
Cadiz	.....1	Rayo Vallecano	.....1
Espanol	.....0	Celta	.....0
Real Zaragoza	.....2	Sevilla	.....1
Logrones	.....0	Real Sociedad	.....1
Deportivo Coruna	.....2	Tenerife	.....2
Albacete	.....0	Barcelona	.....2
Sporting Gijon	.....0	Real Burgos	.....0
Athletic Bilbao	.....1	Osasuna	.....0

(Valencia v Real Madrid — late kickoff)

STANDINGS

Barcelona	25	15	8	2	61	24	38
Real Madrid	25	17	4	4	48	19	38
Deportivo Coruna	25	15	7	3	46	19	37
Valencia	25	11	8	6	36	22	30
Tenerife	25	10	10	5	41	30	30
Atletico Madrid	24	11	7	6	37	28	29
Sevilla	25	11	6	8	33	31	28
Athletic Bilbao	25	12	3	10	35	34	27
Real Zaragoza	25	9	9	7	27	31	27
Espanol	25	8	9	8	32	32	5

GILLHAUS GOES DUTCH

FORMER Holland forward Hans Gillhaus returned to the Dutch League when he joined Vitesse Arnhem for \$A616,020 from Scottish title-chasers Aberdeen.

The move ends an unhappy stay at Pittodrie for the 29-year-old, whose last game for the Dons was 11 months ago.

He has been in dispute with them since last summer, refusing to re-sign and insisting that he did not want to move to another British club.

Recently Gillhaus has been in Holland trying to fix himself up with a new club while Aberdeen held on to his registration.

SULLIVAN BUYS

SOFT-porn king David Sullivan bought hard-up English First Division strugglers Birmingham City for an undisclosed amount.

The multi-millionaire is prepared to put up to \$12.32 million pounds into the club over the next four years in a bid to take them into the Premier League.

But he admitted: "I could not have bought Birmingham at a worse time, with the club in such a precarious position. Our top priority is to stay in the First Division."

Sullivan, who is reputed to be worth \$308.01 million, has made 25-year-old Karan Brady the first female managing director at an English club.

TAPIE WILL STAY

FRENCH Urban Affairs Minister Bernard Tapie, dismissing suggestions he should quit as boss of Marseille Soccer Club in order to keep his cabinet post, proposed letting the fans decide.

The flamboyant millionaire businessman turned politician was stung by Marseille lawyers who said in a report that cabinet ministers must not hold another job, particularly that of company chairman.

"Sport is not commercial. It's a mistake to say that one cannot be a minister and the chairman of a soccer club," Tapie replied in a radio interview.

"I am prepared to ask the people of Marseille what they think... If they agree that I must leave Marseille, I'll quit at once," Tapie said.

He is popular in the southern port for rescuing the club from near-bankruptcy to take them to repeated league titles and the European Cup final in 1990.

Tapie said the lawyers' report was being used to hamper his campaign to win a seat in parliament for Marseille in next month's election.

"I am disappointed and tired... I would like to be allowed to run for election like anyone else," he said.

The report, also dealing with the finances of the Marseille club, was ordered by Mayor Robert Vigouroux and some analysts saw it as the opening shot in a battle for the top city job in municipal elections due in two years.

Quick to try and turn the tables on his opponent, Tapie challenged Vigouroux to go to the voters earlier.

Tapie resigned as a minister last year when he was charged with the Socialist cabinet last December after he reached an out-of-court settlement and the charges were dropped.

He faced fresh attacks last month when he sold his stake in the German sportswear manufacturer Adidas to investors including a French state bank and two state-run insurance companies.

The government has denied any role in the sale.



BERNARD TAPIE

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Uruguayans no surprise

BY COLE HITCHCOCK

URUGUAY coach Angel Castelnoble questioned pre-tournament speculation that his team was not a threat in the World Youth Championship after the South Americans ousted defending champion Portugal in Brisbane on Tuesday.

Uruguay's 2-1 victory, orchestrated through two goals from striker Fabian O'Neil, ended Portugal's World Youth Cup defence with two successive losses from the second favourite.

But Castelnoble claimed the victory was no surprise after many had tipped Portugal to breeze past Uruguay and easily venture into the quarter-finals.

"I think there was some misinterpretations about Uruguay before this tournament," said Castelnoble.

"We have a very good team with 20 of our players playing abroad and gaining that experience."

"Beating Portugal was no surprise. Our team is as good as there and if not better, as we proved."

It now seems likely Uruguay (three points) will advance to the quarter-finals with Germany (three) unless Ghana (two) can register Portugal's third straight



Uruguay team squad in Australia '93

defeat.

The two meet in the last pool match although Germany will be without three key players, even though coach Rainer Bonhoff has dismissed their absence as irrelevant.

Max Eberl and Carsten Jancker

both joined midfielder Guido Jorres, who broke his leg in the first match, on the sidelines with the duo receiving their second yellow cards of the tournament against Ghana.

Under FIFA rules for the championship, two yellow cards

warrants a one-match suspension.

But Bonhoff claims he has a squad of equal ability.

"I have in my team 18 players, with the exception of the one in hospital (Jorres), all of equal standing," Bonhoff declared.

No-show Russian suspended by FIFA

RUSSIAN striker Vladimir Beschastnykh as been suspended by the World Body, FIFA, for failing to appear in the World Youth Championship finals in Australia.

Russian coach Alexandr Piskarev said in Canberra that he would seek suspension of the player because he had remained behind to take part in a European match.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni announced that Beschastnykh had been suspended from playing in any national or international match for the duration of the World Youth Championship.

He will be free to resume his career with his club, Moscow Spartak, on March 21.

Piskarev said the Russian team had been

greatly weakened by the attitude of Spartak in keeping the player behind to take part in a UEFA Cup game instead of representing his country.

Attempts are still being made to have replacement Alexei Savchenko from Moscow Dynamo get to Australia in time for the remaining group match against Colombia.

Savchenko failed to arrive and last report was having problems making airline connections to Sydney.

The Russians won their opening game 2-0 against Cameroon but the squad has been weakened by the absence of the Spartak striker, and injuries to other midfielders as well as the suspension of Yuri Petrov who was sent off against Cameroon in Canberra.

German setback

German coach Rainer Bonhoff, distraught with the news star midfielder Guido Jorres could be sidelined for four months with a broken right ankle, will use the setback as motivation for the remainder of the World Youth Championships.

Germany won its opening match against defending champions Portugal 1-0 with a last minute goal from giant striker Carsten Jancker.

Bonhoff spoke passionately of Jorres after learning the young star's future was clouded.

"It was a tragic incident for him and we'll all do our best and go all the way for him in the finals," Bonhoff said.

"It's too early to say whether the injury will have any bearing on his future."

Jorres, who celebrated his 19th birthday laid up in hospital, was felled in a tackle from Portugal's Nelson Morais and underwent surgery on Monday.

The German delegation considered flying Jorres home immediately for surgery but were eventually convinced to allow it to proceed in a Brisbane hospital.

Jorres only recently signed as a fulltime professional with German First Division club Cologne.

Bonhoff dismissed suggestions Germany will need a more disciplined approach from his players for the remainder of the series following the loss of Jorres and bookings for four of his players.

Under FIFA rules, Germany is not allowed to fly in a replacement for the injured Jorres while an automatic one-match suspension will be handed out to any player who receives two bookings.

MEXICO WEAPONS

A potent two-pronged attack formed by world-class strikers Gabriel Garcia and Luis Salazar is Mexico's main weapon in the World Youth Championship.

The strikers head a line-up, which is considered an outside chance of taking the title.

Mexico, under coach Juan Castillo, is one of the best-prepared teams in the competition, having played more than 60 games together in the lead-up to the event.

Part of that preparation involved a 10-team tournament in Venezuela last year, where the attacking Mexicans were the only team to beat World Championship favourite Brazil, who were missing several players through National League commitments.

But Mexico also lost to Australia in the Venezuela tournament, Mexico will be eager to enhance its international reputation after being banned from competition at the World Youth Tournament in Saudi Arabia in 1989 when players too old for the Under 20 age group were discovered in Mexico's team.

SPOT THE SPY

BY WAYNE HEMING

It's started, and it's going to get worse, much worse.

The lone figure at the back of the stand, the strange face peering out from behind a tree, suddenly disappearing until spotted again behind a concrete pillar on the other side of the ground.

It's called "Spot the Spy" and it's going to be the number one game at the Australia '93. More than 160 nations attempted to qualify for the Youth Championship — only 15, plus Australia, made it here.

With soccer's future superstars all together in Australia for the Youth Championship — third in prestige to the World Cup and Olympics — professional spies could find themselves jostling for positions with an influx of European and English talent scouts.

The job of a highly trained spy is to identify the opposition's danger men and report to his camp any secret moves.

When Germany had its first training run at Perry Park in Brisbane, Uruguayan officials were there watching intently.

That same night, when Uruguay played a trial against Brisbane First Division club Taringa Rovers, the Germans were there, scribbling diagrams of moves and plays.

"The spies are out and about," noted one amused Brisbane official.

"There's going to be a fair bit of that during this cup."

BRAZIL OUTLASTS MEXICO

BY SIMON EVANS

BRAZIL at last showed why it is rated one of the favourites for the World Youth Championship when it outlasted Mexico 2-1 in a spiteful match.

The ill-feeling spilled over at the end of the game when police had to break up an altercation between the two sides in the players' race.

They separated the players by sending the Brazilians back out onto the field to cool down.

Five yellow cards were handed out by Colombian referee Armando Perez Hoyos during the match, but the aggression did not detract from the furious pace and incredible skills displayed by both sides.

Brazilian coach Julio Leal said later his team had rediscovered its free-flowing style, after a sombre 0-0 draw in its opening match against Saudi Arabia.

"We got the feeling of our way to play, now we must see if we can play it for 90 minutes next time," he said.

Leal said the two points from match would mean Brazil was on its way to qualifying for the quarter-finals.

Brazilian playmaker Adriano set up the win when he converted a penalty kick in the 22nd minute, blasting the shot so hard that it beat Mexican goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez despite him getting a hand on it.

The Brazilians then raced to a 2-0 lead in the 56th minute when Cate was subjected to a crude tackle, and Gian neatly floated his penalty kick past Sanchez, who moved the wrong way.

Brazil's running game was simply magic in the first half, with Adriano and Gian cutting the Mexican defence to ribbons, but poor finishing let the team down.

The determined Mexicans kept on attacking and were rewarded in the 79th minute when left-footer Vicente Nieto lobbed a set-piece free kick over

goalkeeper Dida to give his side some hope.

Several more forward flourishes from the Mexicans tested the Brazilian defence and then Nieto, who has netted three goals for the tournament, slammed the ball into the net after an exchange which followed a corner kick.

But the heartbroken Mexican was ruled off-side and the Brazilians held on.

Coach Leal paid tribute to the Mexico's refusal to give up.

"The Mexicans we know very well and they never give up, they have tremendous hearts and minds," Leal said.

Mexican coach Juan Castillo said he was happy with his team's approach to the game and was proud of their comeback.

"In the first half Brazil played with its usual magic when Mexico tried to hassle them. But we made a game of it and it was a tremendous game to watch," he said.

Castillo blamed the referee's lack of control for some of the physical clashes.

"That's because of the man in charge, it's up to him to take charge," he said.

Adriano suffered a cut eye and came off late in the game.

MEXICO: Oswaldo Sanchez, Francisco Amante, Juan Solis, Duilio Davino, Carlos Gonzalez, Ruben Gonzalez, Joel Sanchez, Jesus Olalde (Manuel Sol 64m), Jose Garcia (Gabriel Garcia 45m), Vicente Nieto, Luis Salazar.
BRAZIL: Dida, Bruno, Gelson, Juarez, Marcelinho, Wagner, Cate, Gian, Adriano (Argel 83m), Yan (Hermes 77m), Caico.

Saudis hold Brazil



PRE-tournament favourite Brazil made a disappointing start to its campaign by being held to a scoreless draw by Saudi Arabia in its opening match.

The Brazilians finished the match with 10 men after forward Pereira was sent off in the 73rd minute and the South American Champions were lucky to escape with a draw after withstanding some pressure from the under-rated Saudis.

After an uninspiring opening half, the Saudis and the better of the second half with exciting right-winger Fahad al Ghesheyan almost scoring a couple of times.

One blistering shot in the 68th minute forced giant Brazilian goalkeeper Dida to make a desperate diving save to his right.

In contrast, the Brazilians showed little initiative in attack and Pereira's sending off was a product of their frustration.

Pereira was shown the red card by Russian referee Sergie Khusainov after receiving his

second foul of the night after stupidly trying to head the ball out of the hands of the Saudi Arabian goalkeeper.

In the earlier Group D match, Mexico blitzed Norway 3-0 and should be favourite to beat Brazil when those two sides square off at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Pereira will be missing from that match as he faces an automatic one-game suspension for his misdemeanours.

Despite being seemingly well prepared for these championships, Brazil has a lot of homework to do to ensure it qualifies for the quarter-finals.

The South American

champions have also started the event without exciting winger Mauricio, who apparently has a serious leg injury and may not play in the tournament.

Brazil's much talked about playmaker Adriano only showed glimpses of his talent and was overshadowed by the display by Ghesheyan who was named man of the match.

The Saudis, coached by Brazilian Carlos Cabral looked a much stronger and more capable team than their pre-tournament odds of 40-1 to win the championship would lead most judges to believe.

BRAZIL: Dida, Bruno, Gelson, Juarez, Marcelinho, Wagner, Cate (Hermes 77m), Pereira, Gian, Adriano, Yan (Caico 64m).

SAUDI ARABIA: Hussein al Sadig, Mohammed al Jahani, Khalid al Rashaid, Kamal Hawsawi, Abdullah al Takrouni, Fahad al Ghesheyan, Abdulaziz al Dosari, Mohammed al Oromi, Waleed al Ghamdi, Qbdu Sabyani, Khamis al Dossari.

REFEREE SLAMMED

SAUDI Arabian coach Carlos Roberto Cabral angrily criticised referee Omer Yengo following his team's 0-0 draw with Norway.

The result has severely dampened both sides chances of making the quarter-finals with Norway yet to win a match and Saudi Arabia drawing both its opening games.

After the match Cabral questioned some of the Congo referee's decisions and said he found it incredible that his best player Fahad Al Ghesheyan had been sent off during the game.

"FIFA wants the players to play fair but the referees are not responding to this," Cabral said.

"That's incredible that our best player last match and who really wants to play was sent off by the referee," he said.

Al Ghesheyan was sent off in the second half when he was given a red card after a clash with Norwegian Odd Arild Skonhoft.

Further adding to the Saudis problems Mohammed Al Jahani was given a yellow card in the first half for tackling from behind

which means he will also miss the team's next game after also receiving a yellow card last Sunday night's match.

The Norwegians continually pressed forward in the second half and were desperately unlucky not to score.

In the 47th minute skilful Thomas Oestvold was left unmarked about 15 metres out and blasted a right footer that smashed into the corner of the crossbar.

Just three minutes later Skonhoft headed just to the right of the crossbar from a well placed Tommy Larsen free kick.

Norwegian coach Bjorn Hansen said his team had created many chances but could not seem to capitalise.

"It was not our lucky day, we have a longstanding problem scoring goals," Hansen

said.

The second half was a real contrast to the first where the Saudis dominated using their speed and high skill level to set up chances.

Al Ghesheyan and Abdullah Al Takrouni both made several forays deep into attack but the team could not capitalise.

As the match progressed the Saudis

seemed unable to find the spark to lift them as the Norwegians gradually took control.

Brazil, which drew with Saudi Arabia in its first match last Sunday, will tackle Mexico in the second match at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Mexico thrashed Norway 3-0 in its opening match last Sunday and looks set to be one of the quarterfinalists from Group D.

NORWAY: Thomas Myhre, Odd Arild Skonhoft (Petter Rudi 65m), Thomas Oestvold, Tarje Jacobsen, Tommy Larsen, Lars Olsson, Thomas Hafstad, Harald Loedemel, Brede Skorve, Rune Nordengen, Espen Daland (Stian Tobiassen 18m).

SAUDI ARABIA: Hussein Al Sadig, Mohammed Al Jahani (Jareh Al Garni 57m), Khalid Al Rashaid, Kamal Hawsawi, Abdullah Al Takrouni, Fahad Al Ghesheyan, Abdulaziz Al Dosari, Mohammed Al Oromi, Waleed Al Ghamdi, Abdu Sabyani, Khamis Al Dossari (Ahmed Al Maghrabi 72m).



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AUSSIES THROUGH

Australia remains the only team to have booked a berth in the quarter finals of the World Youth Championship after Tuesday's group matches. The Australians on four points stand alone at the top of Group A, two points clear of Colombia and Russia.

A win or draw against last placed Cameroon will guarantee the Young Socceroos first place in the pool, providing the advantage of playing their quarter-final at their already established base in Sydney.

The Australians will have the luxury against Cameroon of being able to rest a few injured players in preparation for the weekend's quarter finals.

Queensland's Sean Cranney (knee cartilage), in form Ante Milicic (groin) and defender Marc Wingell (shin) are likely to watch from the stands.

Aussies only side to qualify for quarters

And coach Les Scheinflug won't be too upset that key defender Craig Moore will be forced to pay his penance for two yellow cards by sitting out the match against the Africans rather than a more important encounter.

Australia's likely opponent in the quarters won't have the same luxury.

If the Young Socceroos finish atop Group A they will face the second placegetter in Brisbane's rugged Group B.

After Tuesday's matches, only defending champion Portugal is out of the running for that

honour.

Germany (three points), Uruguay (three) and Ghana on two points are all in with a chance of topping the Group.

Scheinflug was in Brisbane to get a look at the contenders and would have been impressed with what he saw during Ghana's 2-2 draw with Germany and Uruguay's 2-1 win over Portugal.

Germany's hopes of over coming Uruguay tonight have received a blow with yellow card suspensions to midfielders Max Eberl and Carsten Jancker.

Similarly congested tables in Groups C and D

ensure the 7th World Championship's final round of pool matches will be desperate affairs.

In Melbourne's Group C an efficient England has the front running, while the US and South Korea will contest a virtual playoff for the other quarters berth.

Brazil's dazzling form in winning 2-1 against an equally impressive Mexico took it to the top of Adelaide's Group D.

The South Americans need only to draw against Norway to progress while Mexico should not underestimate Saudi Arabia in their match for a spot in the last eight.



Australian goalscoring mood

Matassa superb



Peter Gunning

Peter Gunning, one of the most consistent keepers in this years National League, believes Young Soccerroo keeper Vince Matassa won the game with his brilliant reflex save against Russia.

"If Russia had scored it would have been 2-1 to them," said Gunning.

"It was a superb save at the right time as Russia was beginning to get on top of the game."

The Young Socceroos went onto win the game 3-1 and in so doing qualified for the quarter finals.

"Matassa was under a bit of pressure before the game as he was conceded a soft goal against Colombia in the first game.

"He was unfortunate as Kevin Muscat blocked his vision.

"Those shots are always the hardest to save and I felt very sorry for him.

"Against Russia though, he more than made up for it with that save."

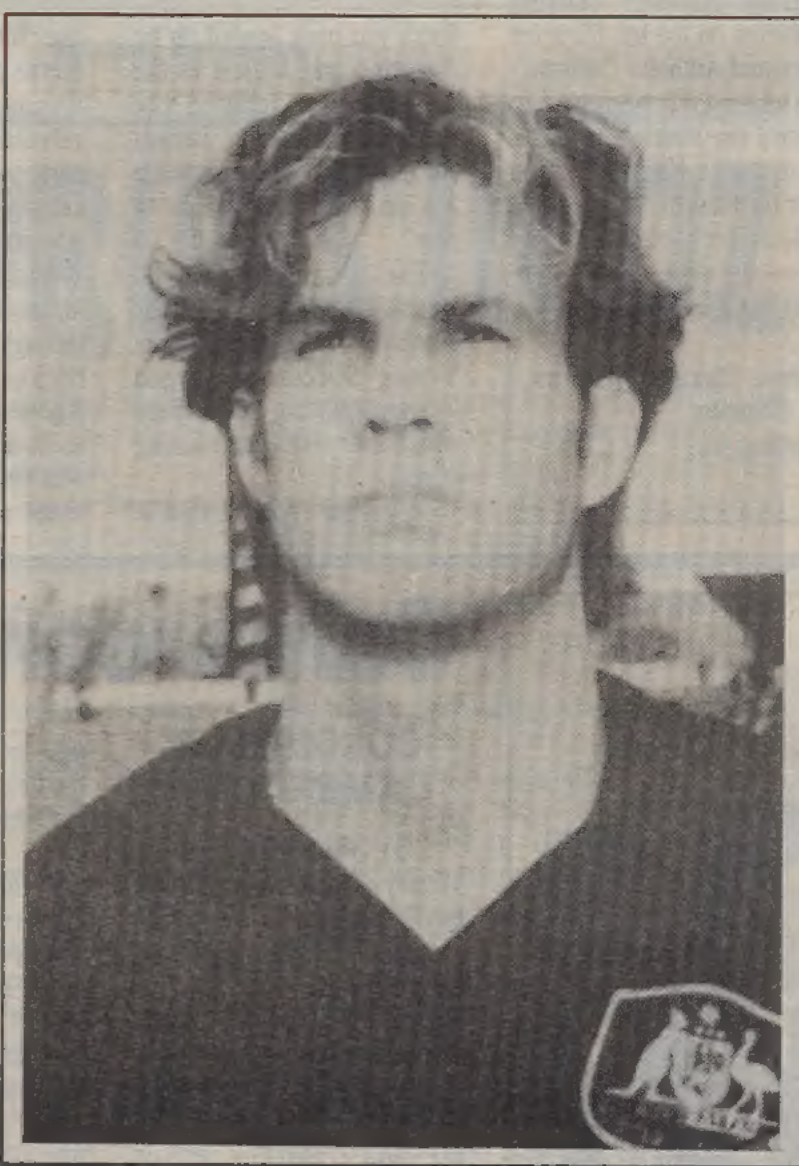
Gunning has been less impressed with the overall goalkeeping standards of the WYC, so far.

"Only the Uruguayan and England keeper have looked any better than average.

"We have such a rich talent of keepers in Australia and abroad that we never struggle in goal.

"I spoke to Matassa after the game and gave him a pat on the back for what has to be the save of the tournament to date.

"I just feel sorry for Frank Juric as their is nothing between Matassa and him when it comes to filling in the goalkeeping position."



Vince Matassa

WYC TABLES

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	0	5	2	4
Colombia	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Russia	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Cameroon	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

Next matches: Australia v Cameroon, Russia v Colombia, today.

GROUP B

Germany	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Uruguay	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Ghana	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Portugal	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Next matches: Germany v Uruguay, Ghana v Portugal, today.

GROUP C

England	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
United States	2	1	0	1	6	1	2
South Korea	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Turkey	2	0	1	1	1	7	1

Next matches: England v Turkey, South Korea v United States, today.

GROUP D

Brazil	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Mexico	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Saudi Arabia	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Norway	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

Next matches: Norway v Brazil, Mexico v Saudi Arabia, today

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